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SUMMARY INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY BODIES WITH REGARD TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LIVING RESOURCES OF THE HIGH SEAS

by

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PREPARATION OF THIS CIRCULAR

This Circular has been prepared as part of FAO's Regular Programme activities aimed at assisting fisheries managers in better managing high seas living resources.

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ABSTRACT

The present Circular provides summary information on the role of the international fishery bodies with regard to the conservation and management of living resources of the high seas. It briefly reviews the high seas activities of some 22 regional fishery bodies throughout the world. For each body, information is given on its area of competence, species covered, membership and high seas activities. In a few cases, additional remarks are added. Whenever feasible, diagrammatic maps are attached showing the area of activity of the organizations, the limits of the FAO Statistical Areas in the region and the external limits of the 200 mile zones off the coasts in the region. An Annex gives the addresses of the Secretariat of the organizations.

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The FAO Fisheries Circular is a vehicle for distribution of short or ephemeral notes, lists, etc., including provisional versions of documents to be issued later in other series.

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INTRODUCTION

At its 19th Session (Rome, 8-12 April 1991) the Committee on Fisheries agreed that the question of the rational management of living resources of the high seas warranted further consideration by FAO. It was in particular recognized that it had become necessary to be able to assess the actual extent of high seas fisheries. The Committee agreed that FAO should study the possibility of collecting and publishing statistical data differentiating between areas under national jurisdiction and high seas, taking into account the technical, statistical and socio-economic aspects involved, and with the collaboration of all the relevant fishery bodies concerned, where applicable. Most delegations stated that due consideration will have to be given to the research needs and to the legal, institutional and policy aspects of high seas fishing, for which FAO has also responsibility.

In order to facilitate the work of all those who will be involved in these efforts, the present Circular provides summary information on the role of international fishery bodies with regard to the conservation and management of living resources of the high seas. It contains a short description of some 22 international organizations dealing with high seas fisheries and gives basic information on their establishment, area of competence, species covered, membership and their activities on the high seas.

Where applicable, diagrammatic maps are attached showing the area of activity of the Organizations, the limits of the FAO statistical areas in the region (shown by lines consisting of alternate dashes and dots when they do not coincide with the limits of the area of competence of the organizations) and the external limit of the 200 mile zones off the coasts in the region. Areas outside 200 miles from the coasts are shown by dotted lines. The latter is mainly based on a map submitted by the UN Secretariat to the Second Committee of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in April 1978 showing inter alia a 200 nautical miles line around all elevations permanently above the surface of the sea (Document A/CONF. 62/L.2/L.98, Add.1 and Add.3.) and, in a few cases, on other maps available to the author. These diagrammatic maps are drawn for illustrative purposes only and have no legal implications. They should not be interpreted as prejudicing the position of any country as regard the applicability of any provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention.

An Annex gives the addresses of the Secretariat of the Organizations which can be contacted for further information.

The author wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance he received from Mr Olivier de Poulpiquet in the preparation of this circular, from Mr Oliviero Lidonnici for the drawings and from Mr Maurizio Perotti who provided useful information on FAO statistical boundaries.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)

Established by the Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, done at Copenhagen on 12 September 1964 which substituted an older instrument concluded in 1902. It entered into force on 22 July 1968.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Council is defined as the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas with emphasis on the North Atlantic. There is no precise delimitation of this area by lines of longitude and latitude. In practice, ICES is primarily, but not exclusively, concerned with Area 27 (see attached map 1).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Council are all living marine resources.

MEMBERSHIP:

The members of ICES are as follows: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, USSR.

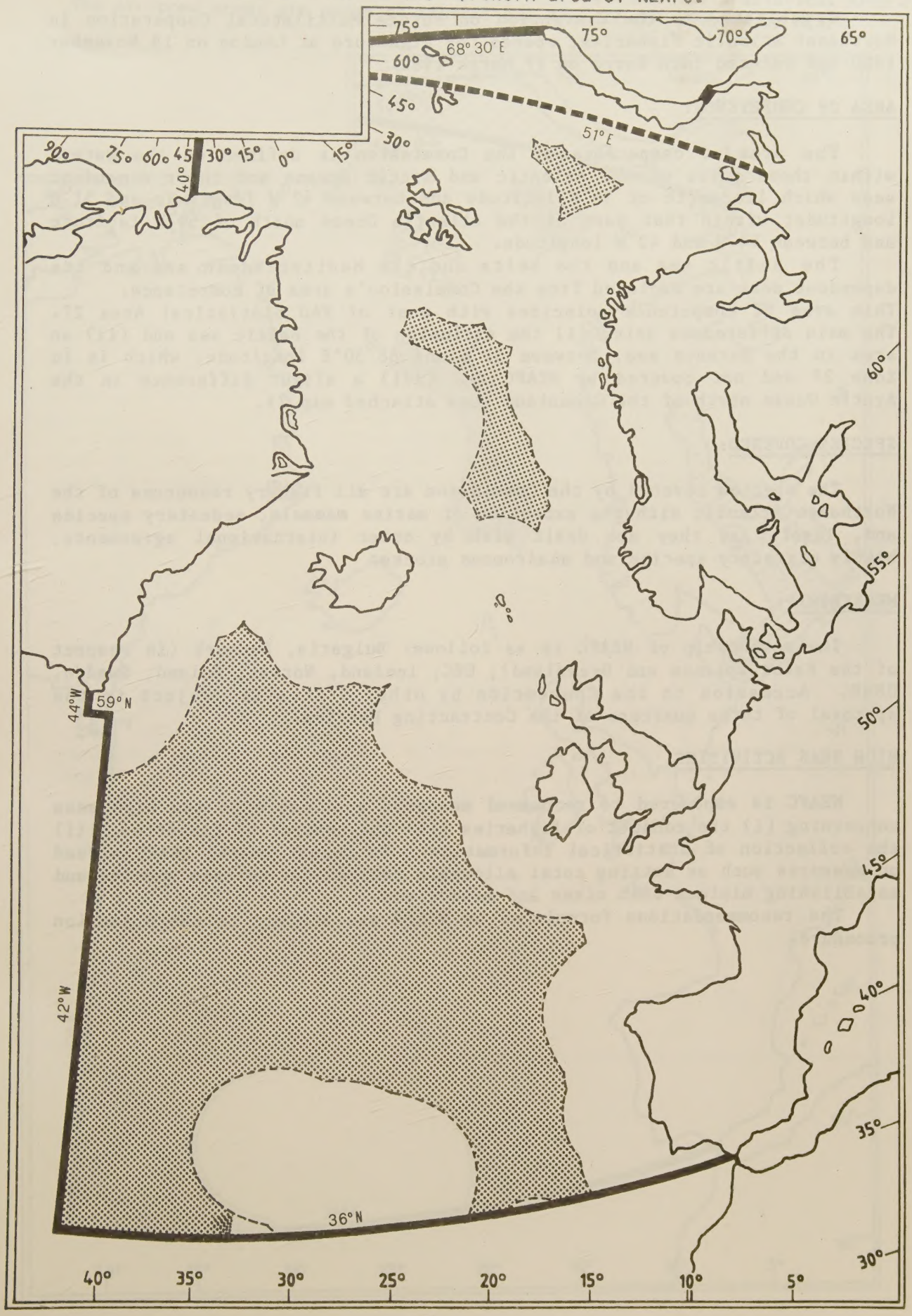
Membership is subject to the approval of three quarters of the Member States.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

ICES itself is not a regulatory body. It has an Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (AFCM) which provides scientific information and advice, including recommendations for management measures (e.g., total allowable catches, minimum mesh sizes, etc.), to several international bodies dealing with fisheries in the North Atlantic Ocean (EEC, IBSFC, NASCO, NEAFC) and to its Member States. Such information and advice concern fishery resources both within areas under national jurisdiction and on high seas.

MAP 1:

FAO Statistical Area 27 in which ICES concentrates its activities. The dotted line is the northern area of NEAFC.



NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NEAFC)

Established by the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in Northeast Atlantic Fisheries, opened for signature at London on 18 November 1980 and entered into force on 17 March 1982.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Commission is defined as the waters within those parts of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and their dependent seas which lie north of 36°N latitude and between 42°W longitude and 51°E longitude; within that part of the Atlantic Ocean north of 59°N latitude and between 44°W and 42°W longitude.

The Baltic sea and the belts and the Mediterranean sea and its dependent seas are excluded from the Commission's area of competence.
This area of competence coincides with most of FAO Statistical Area 27. The main differences being (i) the exclusion of the Baltic sea and (ii) an area in the Barents sea, between 51°E and 68°30'E longitude, which is in Zone 27 and not covered by NEAFC and (iii) a slight difference in the Arctic Ocean north of the Groenland (see attached map 2).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Commission are all fishery resources of the Northeast Atlantic with the exception of marine mammals, sedentary species and, insofar as they are dealt with by other international agreements, highly migratory species and anadromous stocks.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of NEAFC is as follows: Bulgaria, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EEC, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, USSR. Accession to the Convention by other States is subject to the approval of three quarters of the Contracting Parties.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

NEAFC is empowered to recommend measures applicable to the high seas concerning (i) the conduct of fisheries (ii) the control of fisheries (iii) the collection of statistical information. In recent years, NEAFC agreed on measures such as setting total allowable catches for certain species and establishing minimum fish sizes and mesh sizes.

The recommendations formulated by NEAFC are subject to the objection procedure.

MAP 2:

Area of competence of NEAFC. The dotted lines delimit the FAO Statistical Area 27. The stripped areas are parts of Statistical Area 27 not covered by NEAFC.

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION (NASCO)

Created by the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean, open for signature in Reykjavik, on 2 March 1982 and entered into force on 1 October, 1983.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

The Convention applies to the salmon stocks which migrate beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction of coastal States of the Atlantic Ocean north of 36°N latitude throughout their migratory range. (See attached map 3). This area is subdivided into three regions serviced by three different commissions.

The North American Commission covers all maritime waters within areas of fisheries jurisdiction of coastal States off the east coast of North America. The West Greenland Commission covers all maritime waters within the area of fisheries jurisdiction off the coast of West Greenland west of a line drawn along 44°W longitude south to 59°N latitude, thence due east to 42°W longitude and thence due south. The North East Atlantic Commission covers all maritime waters east of the line mentioned above.

The area of competence of NASCO coincides with FAO Statistical Area 27 and part of Area 21. The difference being that the area west of the Meridian 42°W longitude between 35°N and 36°N latitude is included in Area 21 but not covered by NASCO.

SPECIES COVERED:

Salmon

MEMBERSHIP:

Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), EEC, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the USSR and the USA are parties to the Convention.

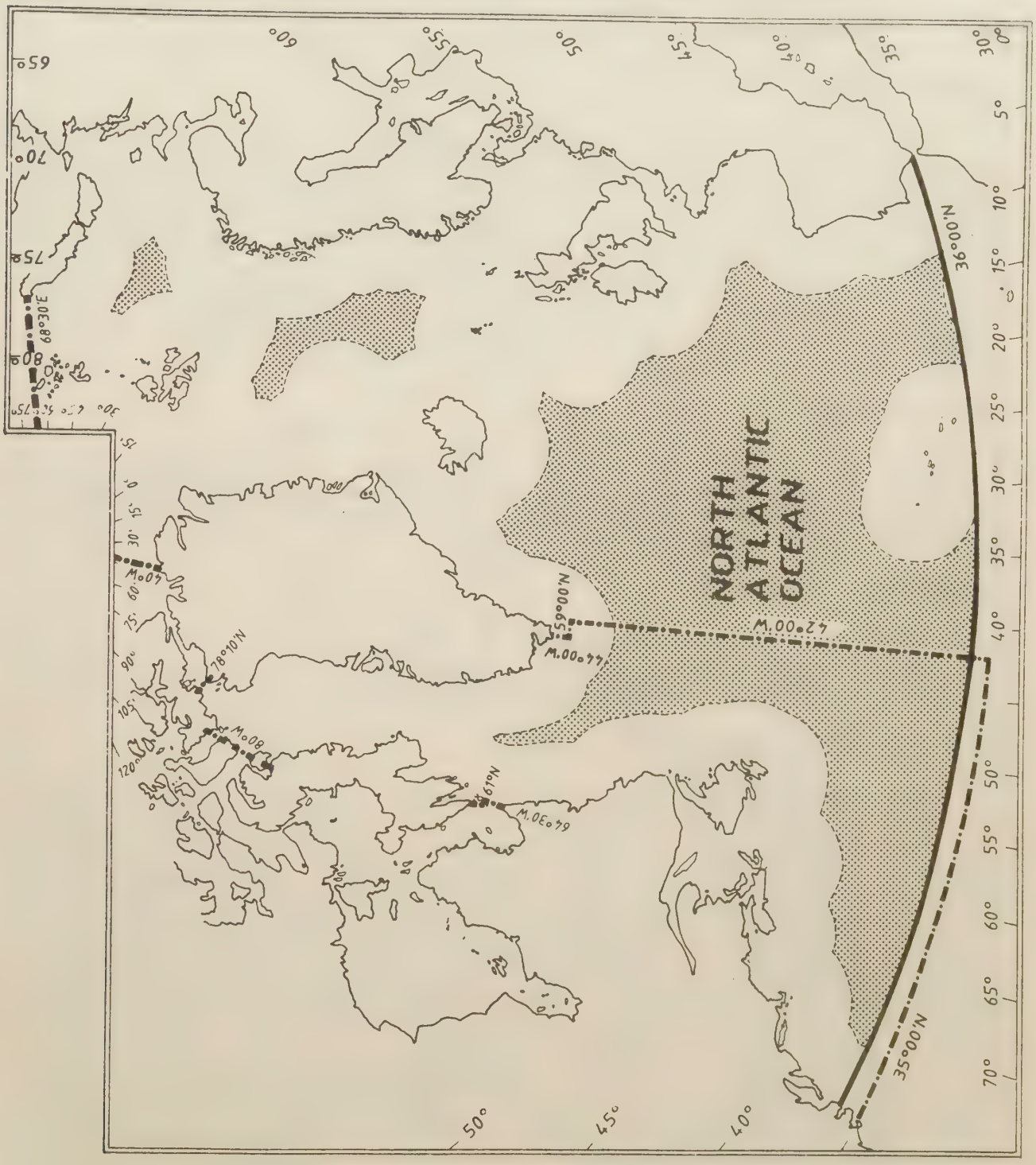
The Convention is open for accession by any State that exercises fisheries jurisdiction in the North Atlantic Ocean or any State of origin for salmon stocks, subject to the approval of the Council.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

The Convention prohibits the fishing of salmon on the high seas.

MAP 3:

The area of competence of NASCO. The dotted lines delimit FAO Statistical Areas 21 (on the left) and 27 (on the right)



NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

Established by the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, concluded at Ottawa on 24 October 1978 and entered into force on 1 January 1979.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of NAFO is defined as "the waters of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean north of 35°N latitude and west of a line extending due north from 35°N latitude and 42°W longitude to 59°N latitude, thence due west to 44°W longitude, and thence due north to the coast of Greenland, and the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Davis Strait and Baffin bay south of 78°10'N latitude" (see attached map 4). This area coincides exactly with FAO Statistical Area 21. The Convention provides for the establishment of "regulatory area" which is that part of the Convention area lying beyond the areas under the fisheries jurisdiction of Coastal States.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by NAFO are all fishery resources with the following exceptions: salmon, tunas and marlins, cetacean stocks managed by the International Whaling Commission or any successor organization, and sedentary species of the continental shelf.

MEMBERSHIP:

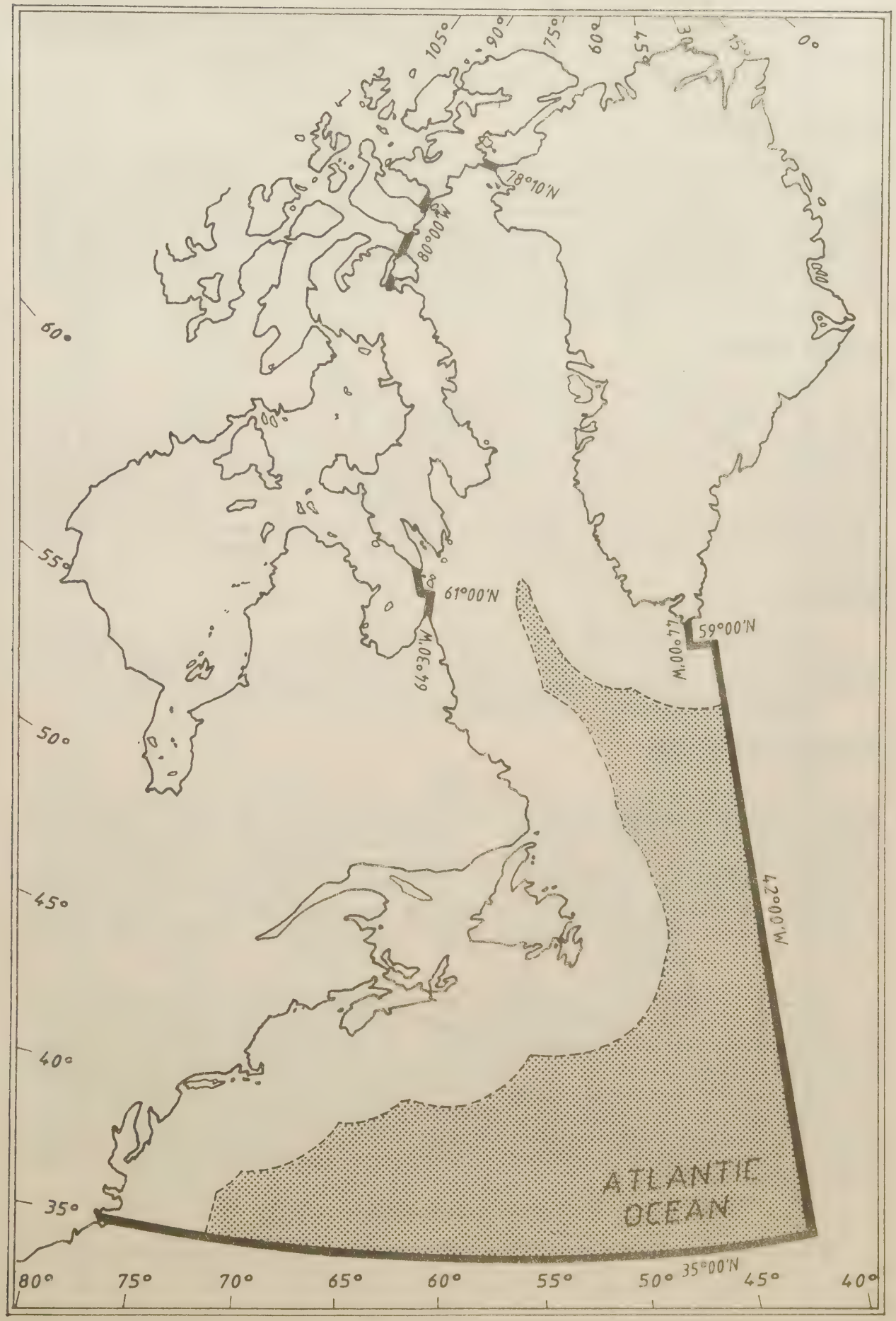
The membership of NAFO is as follows: Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), EEC, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, USSR. Membership is widely opened.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

The main function of NAFO is to contribute to the optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the Convention area. The Organization has a subsidiary body named the Fisheries Commission which is responsible for the management and conservation of the fishery resources of the regulatory area. Membership in the Commission is determined by the General Council and consists of countries participating in the fisheries of the regulatory area and/or countries which have provided satisfactory evidence that they expect to participate in the fisheries of the regulatory area during the year of that annual meeting or during the following calendar year. The Fisheries Commission, within the regulatory area, may adopt proposals for international measures of control and enforcement within the Regulatory Area for the purpose of ensuring within that Area the application of the Convention and execution of the main functions of NAFO. The Commission resolves on the allocations of the catches in the Regulatory Area to the Contracting Parties and maintains a scheme of joint international inspection for providing surveillance and inspection of international fisheries in the Regulatory Area. The proposals of the Fisheries Commission are subject to the objection procedure. The Convention provides that the Contracting Parties may invite the attention of any State not a Party to this Convention to any matter relating to the fishing activities in the Regulatory Area of the nationals or vessels of that State which appear to affect adversely the attainment of the objectives of this Convention.

MAP 4:

The area of competence of NAFO



GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

Established by an Agreement drawn up at Rome on 24 September 1949 pursuant to Article XIV of FAO Constitution. This agreement entered into force on 20 February 1952. It was amended in 1963 and 1976.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The 1949 GFCM Agreement provided that the Council shall carry out its functions in the "Mediterranean waters as they are geographically described". The 1963 Amendment referred to the "Mediterranean and contiguous waters". As a result of the 1976 Amendment, the area of competence of the Council is now defined as being "the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and connecting waters". This area coincides exactly with FAO statistical area 37 (see attached map 5).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by GFCM are all living marine resources within its area of competence. At its Tenth Session in 1976, the Council recalled that ICCAT had also been given responsibility for the monitoring and management of tuna resources of the Mediterranean as an adjacent sea to the Atlantic. It acknowledged the work done by ICCAT in connection with Mediterranean tuna resources and expressed a wish for increased collaboration with ICCAT. In 1990 a joint GFCM/ICCAT meeting was held to assess the stocks of large pelagic fish of the Mediterranean.

MEMBERSHIP:

The members of GFCM are as follows: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia.

Membership to GFCM is widely opened.

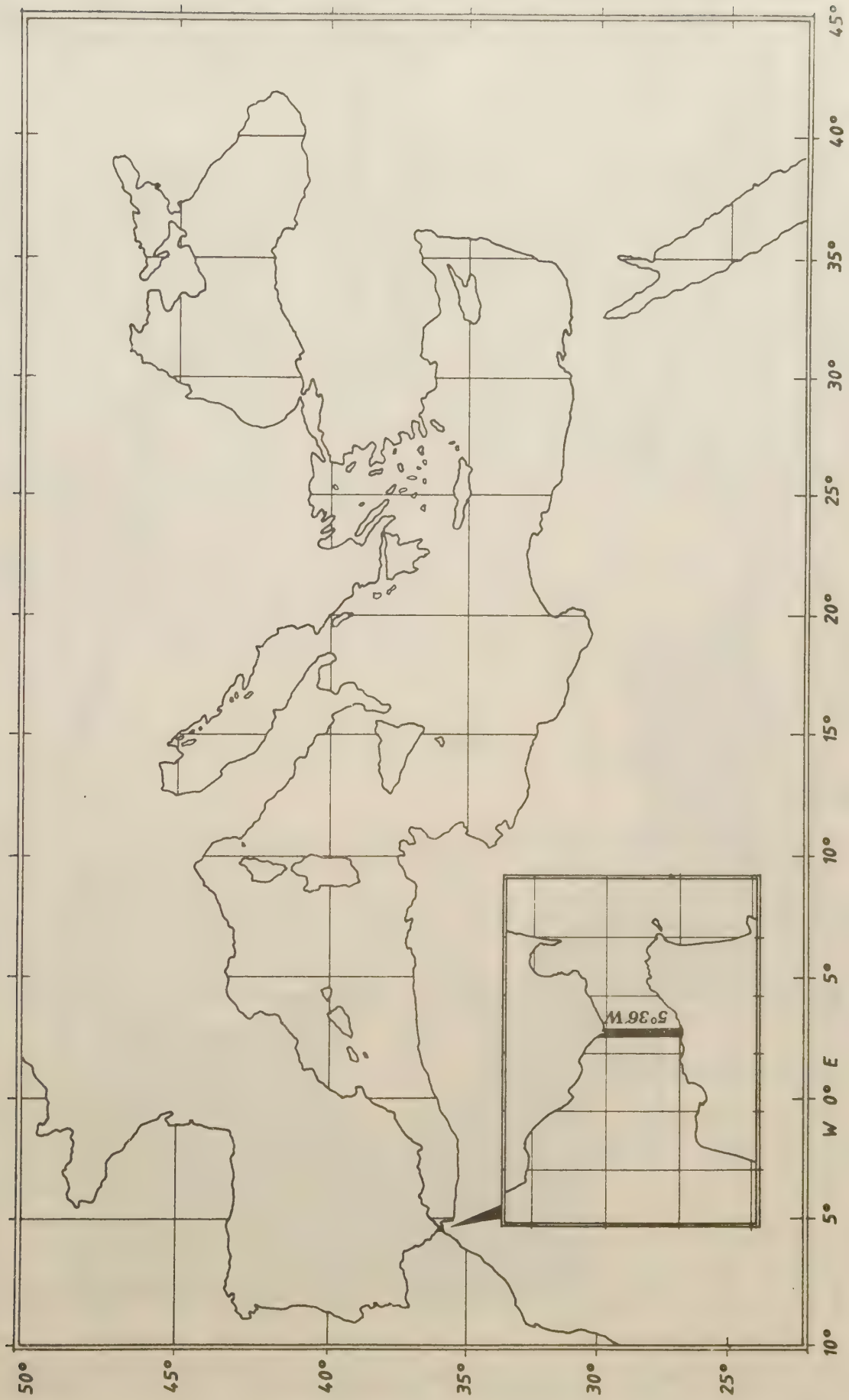
HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

It should be noted that off most of the countries bordering the Mediterranean, the high seas, in the legal sense of the word, begin very near the coast (6 to 12 miles). On the other hand, in the Black Sea, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and the USSR have extended their jurisdiction up to 200 miles or to boundaries with other EEZ. For the purpose of this circular, only areas 200 miles beyond the coast are shaded. As there are no such areas in the Mediterranean Sea the map does not include any shaded areas.

GFCM is empowered to formulate and recommend approriate measures for the conservation and rational management of all living marine resources. These measures includes the regulation of fishing methods and fishing gears, the prescription of the minimum size for individuals of specified species, the establishment of open and closed seasons, the regulation of the amount of total catch and fishing effort and their allocation among members. These recommendations are applicable to high seas areas and are subject to objection procedure. No such recommendations have been formulated so far.

MAP 5:

Area of competence of GFCM



FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)

Established by Resolution 1/48 adopted by the FAO Council at its Forty-eighth Session held in Rome in June 1967 under Article VI (2) of FAO Constitution. Its statutes were promulgated by the Director-General on 19 September 1967.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Committee is defined as all the waters of the Atlantic bounded by a line drawn as follows: from a point on the high water mark on the African coast at Cape Spartel (Lat. 35°47'N, Long. 5°55'W) following the high water mark along the African coast to a point at Ponta da Moita Seca (Lat. 6°07'S, Long. 12°16'E) along a rhumb line in a northwesterly direction to a point on 6° south latitude and 12° east longitude, thence due west along 6° south latitude to 20° west longitude, thence due north to the equator, thence due west to 30° west longitude, thence due north to 5° north latitude, thence due west to 40° west longitude thence due north to 36° north latitude, thence due east to 6° west longitude, thence along a rhumb line in a southeasterly direction to the original point at Cape Spartel. This area mostly coincides with FAO statistical area 34 with the exceptions of (i) a small area on the Atlantic side of the Gibraltar Strait which is included in FAO Statistical Area 34 and is not in principle covered by CECAF (see striped area on map 6) and (ii) a very small area off the Congo/Zaire river mouth which is covered by CECAF but is not part of FAO Statistical Area 34.

In March 1977, CECAF recommended to include the waters off Angola in its area of competence. In April 1981, CECAF suggested to eliminate the southern boundary of its area of competence. The matter has been followed up by COFI and/or the Council which agreed in both cases that no decision in this regard should be taken without knowing the views of Angola and Namibia.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Committee are all living marine resources.

MEMBERSHIP:

The members of CECAF are Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sao-Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo, USA, Zaire. This includes all coastal countries within the area, plus other countries fishing or carrying out research in the CECAF area or having some other interest in the fisheries thereof.

Membership to CECAF is widely opened.

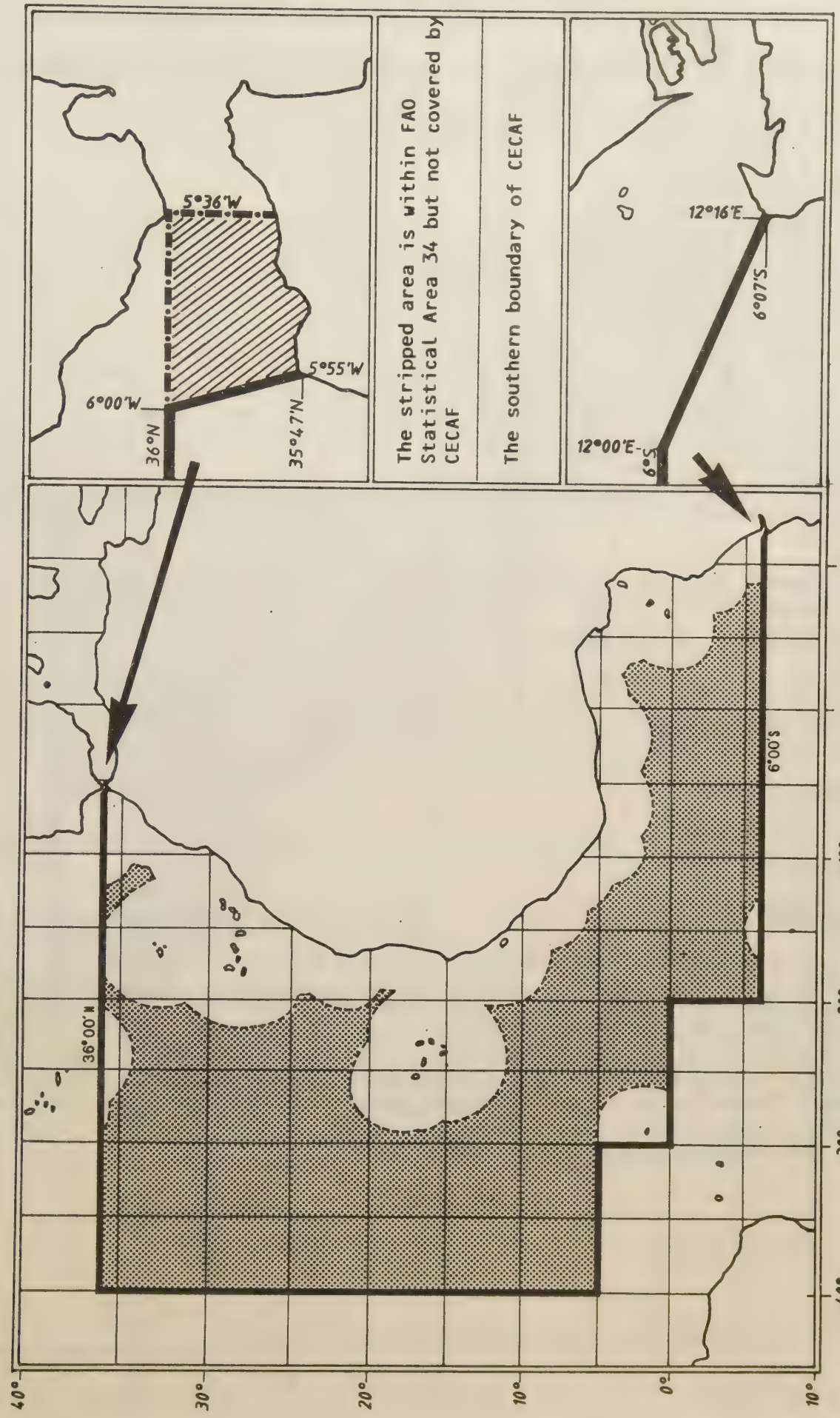
HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

The Committee is empowered to give advice designed to assist Member Governments in establishing the scientific basis for regulation measures for the conservation and improvement of marine fishery resources throughout its area of competence, including on the high seas. At its Eleventh Session in December 1988, CECAF recommended that fishing effort on certain species be frozen at the present level in FAO Statistical Areas 34.1.3 and 34.3.1. These areas include portions of high seas.

At its next Session in December 1991, CECAF will consider a proposal to change its terms of reference as follows: "to establish the scientific basis for regulatory measures leading to the conservation and management of marine fishery resources, to formulate such measures through subsidiary bodies as required, and to make appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures."

MAP 6:

Area of competence of CECAF



WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

Established by Resolution 4/61 of the FAO Council at its Sixty-first Session held in Rome in November 1973 under Article VI (1) of the FAO Constitution. The Statutes of the Commission were amended by the FAO Council at its Seventy-fourth Session in December 1978.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The Commission's area of competence is defined as all marine waters of the Western Central Atlantic bounded by a line drawn as follows: from a point on the coast of South America at 10°S latitude in a northerly direction along this coast past the Atlantic entry to the Panama canal; thence continue along the coasts of central and north America to a point on this coast at 35°N latitude; thence due east along this parallel to 42°W longitude; thence due north along this meridian to 36°N latitude; thence due east along this parallel to 40°W longitude; thence due south along this meridian to 5°N latitude; thence due east along this parallel to 30°W longitude; thence due south along this meridian to the Equator; thence due east along the Equator to 20°W longitude; thence due south along this meridian to 10°S latitude; thence due west along this parallel to the original point at 10°S latitude on the coast of South America (see attached map 7).

These limits are the result of a change suggested by the Commission at its Second Meeting in May 1978 and endorsed by the Council at its Seventy-fourth Session in December 1978. The change consisted in enlarging the area of competence of the Commission in the south (from 5°N latitude to 10°S latitude) so as to include the waters off Northern Brazil up to the mouth of the Sao Francisco River. Prior to this change, the area of competence of WECAFC coincided exactly with Statistical Area 31. Since then it also includes part of FAO Statistical Area 41.

SPECIES COVERED:

The Commission has competence to deal with all living marine resources.

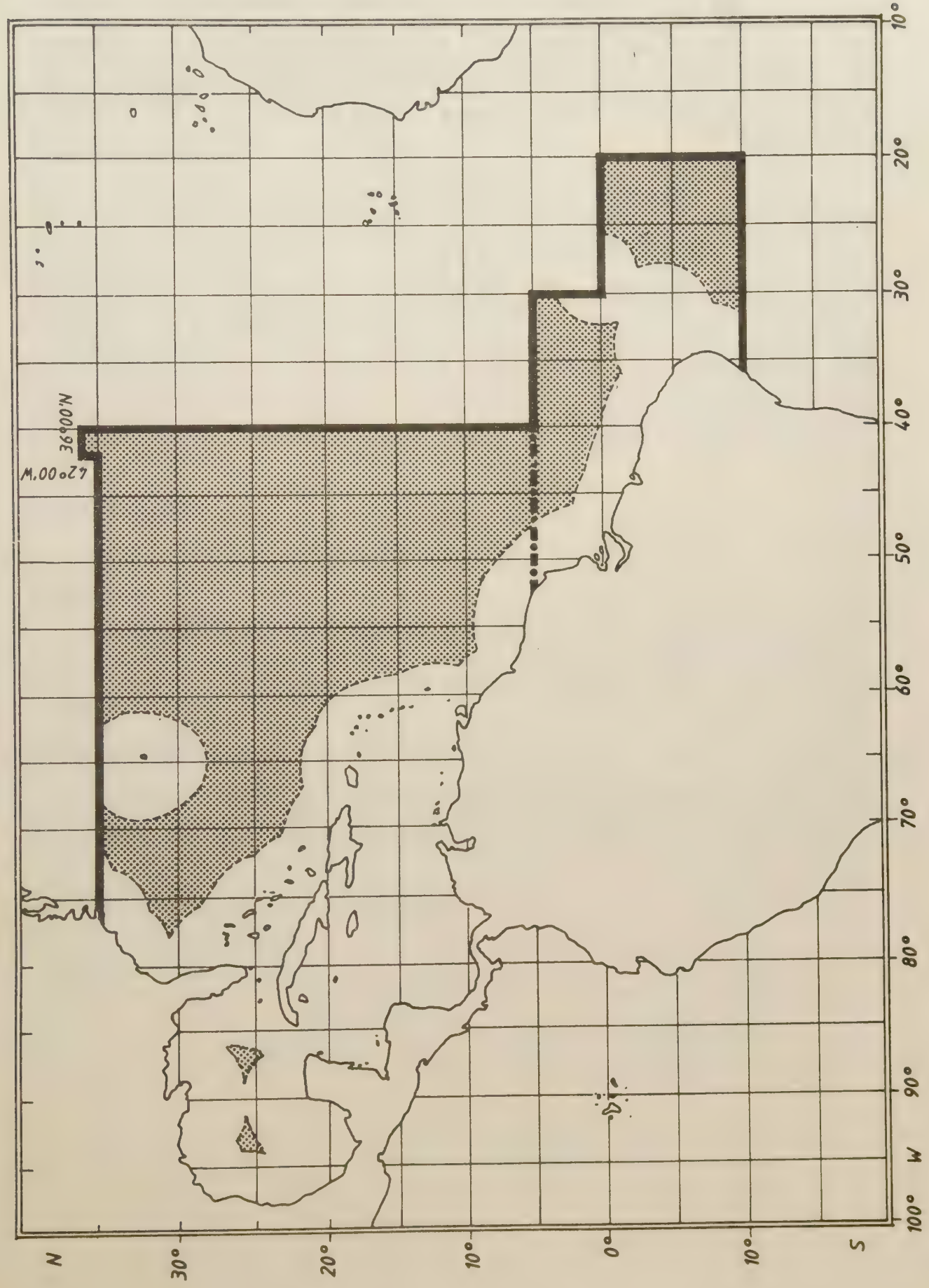
MEMBERSHIP:

As of January 1991 the members of WECAFC were as follows: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, Dominica, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, U.K., U.S.A., Venezuela. It therefore includes all Coastal States in the region which are members of FAO except Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

The membership to WECAFC is widely opened.

MAP 7:

Area of competence of WECAFC. The dotted line delimits FAO Statistical Area 31 (in the north) from FAO Statistical Area 41 (in the south)



HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

Upon request of Member Governments concerned, the Commission is empowered *inter alia* to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilizations of living marine resources that are of interest to two or more countries. At its Seventh Session in November 1990, it formulated for the first time a specific management recommendation applicable to the high seas of its whole area of competence (moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the Western Central Atlantic).

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC (CARPAS)

Established by Resolution 25/61 adopted by the Council of FAO at its Eleventh Session in November 1961 under Article VI (1) of the FAO Constitution. Its Statutes were promulgated by the Director-General of FAO on 17 May 1962.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The geographic area served by the Commission includes the waters of the South West Atlantic. There is no precise definition of this area by lines of longitude and latitude. In 1968 the Commission established a statistical area which, at that time, coincided exactly with FAO Statistical Area 41 (see attached map 8). It also requested the Secretariat to provide statistical information on two adjacent areas which are shown as striped on the same map. FAO Statistical Area 41 has since then undergone two changes: (i) the southern boundary of Area 41 has been moved upward, and (ii) the south west boundary has been modified from 1982 as a result of the boundary agreement between Chile and Argentina (see attached map 9). In addition, since WECAFC moved southward its area of competence in 1978, there is a potential overlapping between the WECAFC area of competence and the CARPAS statistical area.

SPECIES COVERED:

CARPAS covers all marine living resources.

MEMBERSHIP:

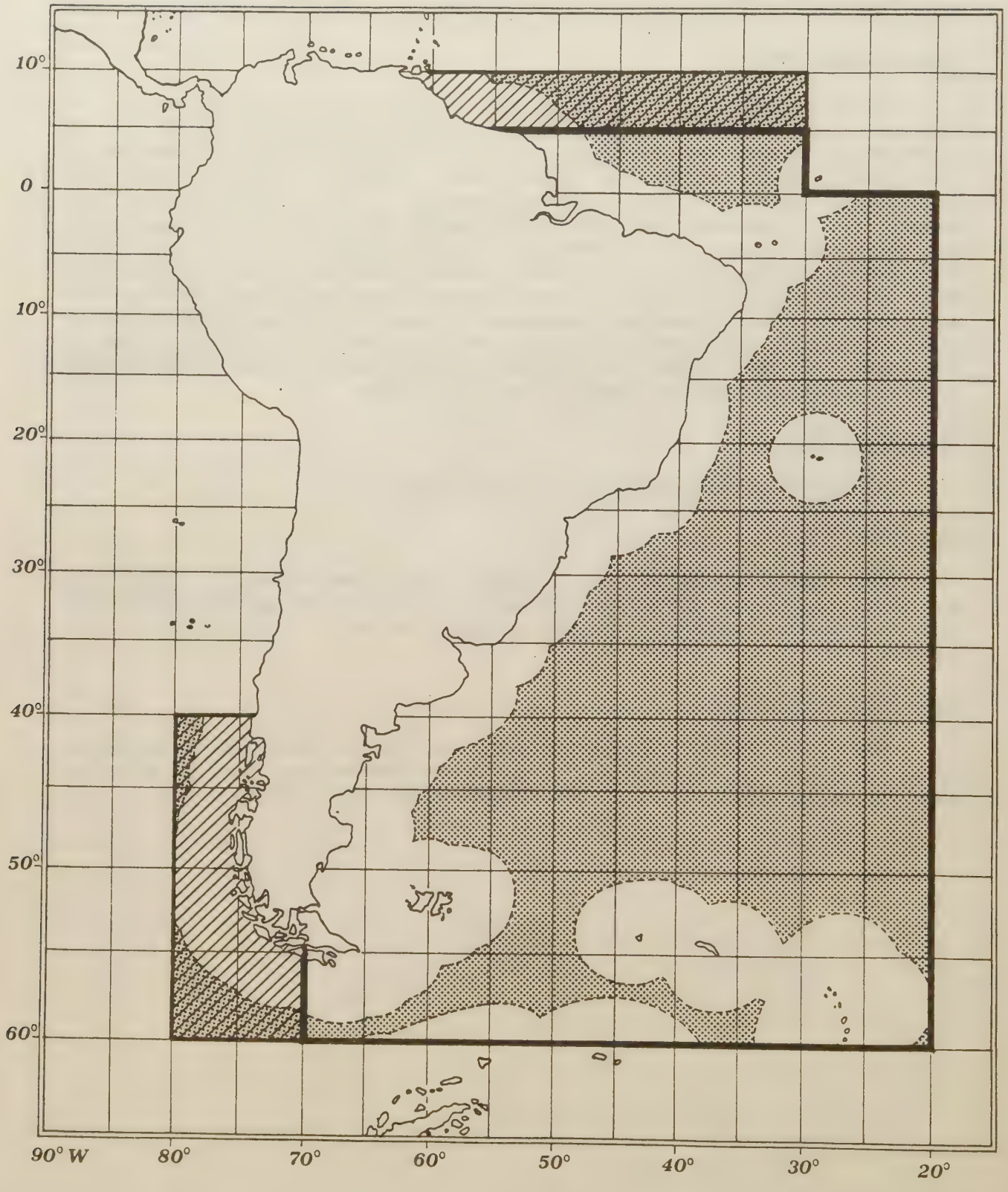
The members of CARPAS are Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. Membership is restricted to FAO Member Nations which belong to the American Continent and have coasts bordering on the Western Atlantic Ocean south of the Equator.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

CARPAS has power to recommend measures for the rational exploitation of marine fisheries with respect to the South West Atlantic area, including the high seas. The Commission has been inactive since 1974.

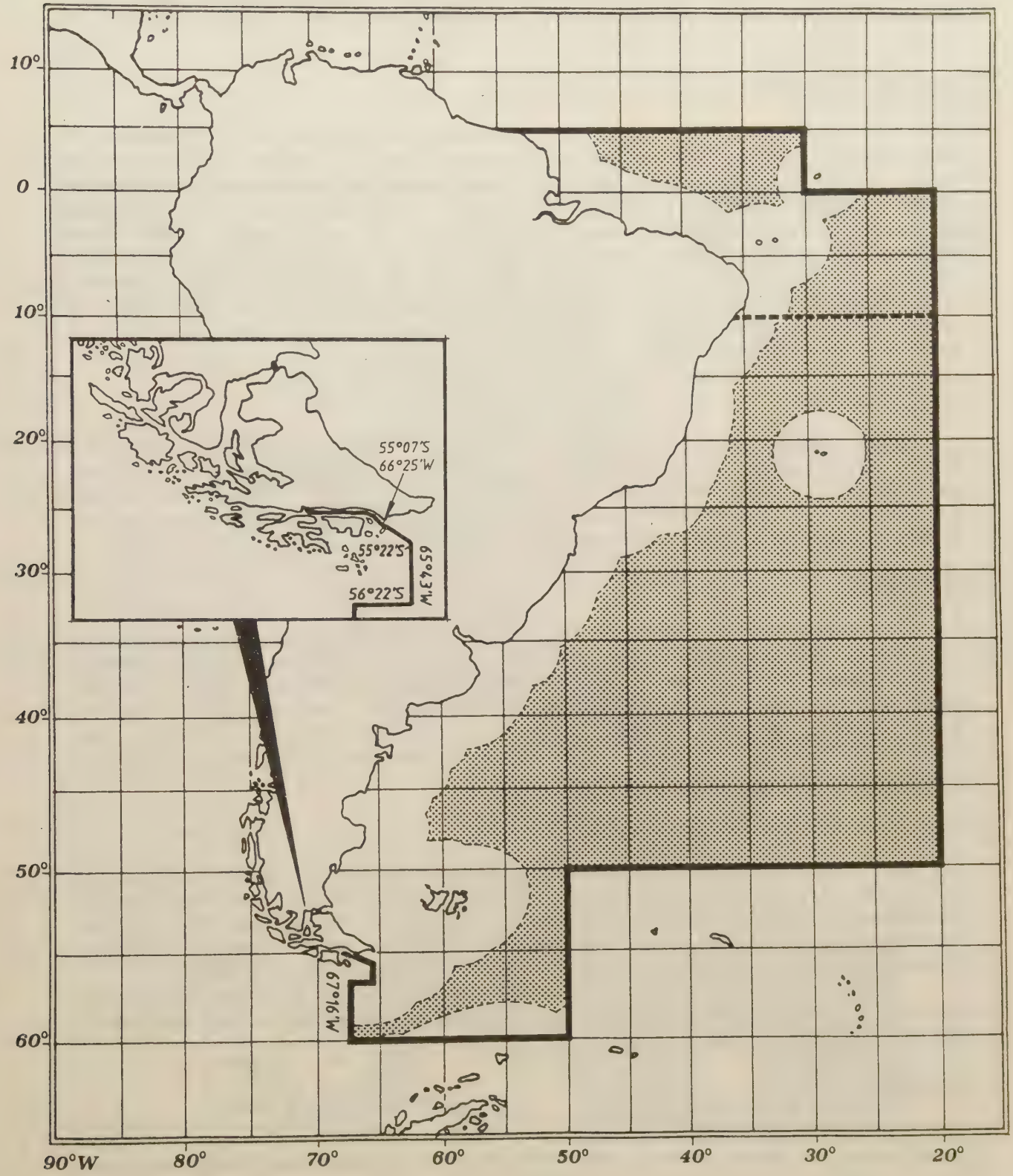
MAP 8:

CARPAS Statistical Area. The two adjacent areas are shown as stripped.



MAP 9:

FAO Statistical Area 41. The northern part delimited by a dotted line is covered by WECAFC



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

Established by the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, signed in Madrid on 14 May 1966 and entered into force on 21 March 1969. A Protocol amending the Convention was agreed upon by a Diplomatic Conference held in Paris on 9-10 July 1984, but is not yet in force.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Commission is defined as "all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent seas". There is no precise delimitation of this area by lines of longitude and latitude. This rather broad definition was established in order to encompass all waters of the Atlantic Ocean in which tunas were likely to be found. This area corresponds in most part to FAO Statistical Areas 41, 47, 48 (part of it), 31, 34, 37, 21 and 27 (see attached map 10). It should be noted, however, that ICCAT does not deal with certain stocks of yellowfin and albacore tunas occurring south of South Africa in Area 47 which are biologically part of Indian Ocean stocks.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Commission are the tuna and tuna like fishes (the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus Scomber) and such other species of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international organization.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of the Commission is as follows: Angola, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Morocco, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Spain, USSR, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela. Membership to ICCAT is widely open. Upon entry into force of the above-mentioned protocol, the Convention will be open to such intergovernmental economic integration organizations as the EEC.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

By the very nature of the species covered which are highly migratory, ICCAT is very much involved in high seas fisheries. It has so far recommended a number of measures applicable to the high seas (e.g. global catch quotas, minimum weight of fish, limitation of incidental catches, regulation of fishing effort, endorsement of UN Resolution 44/225).

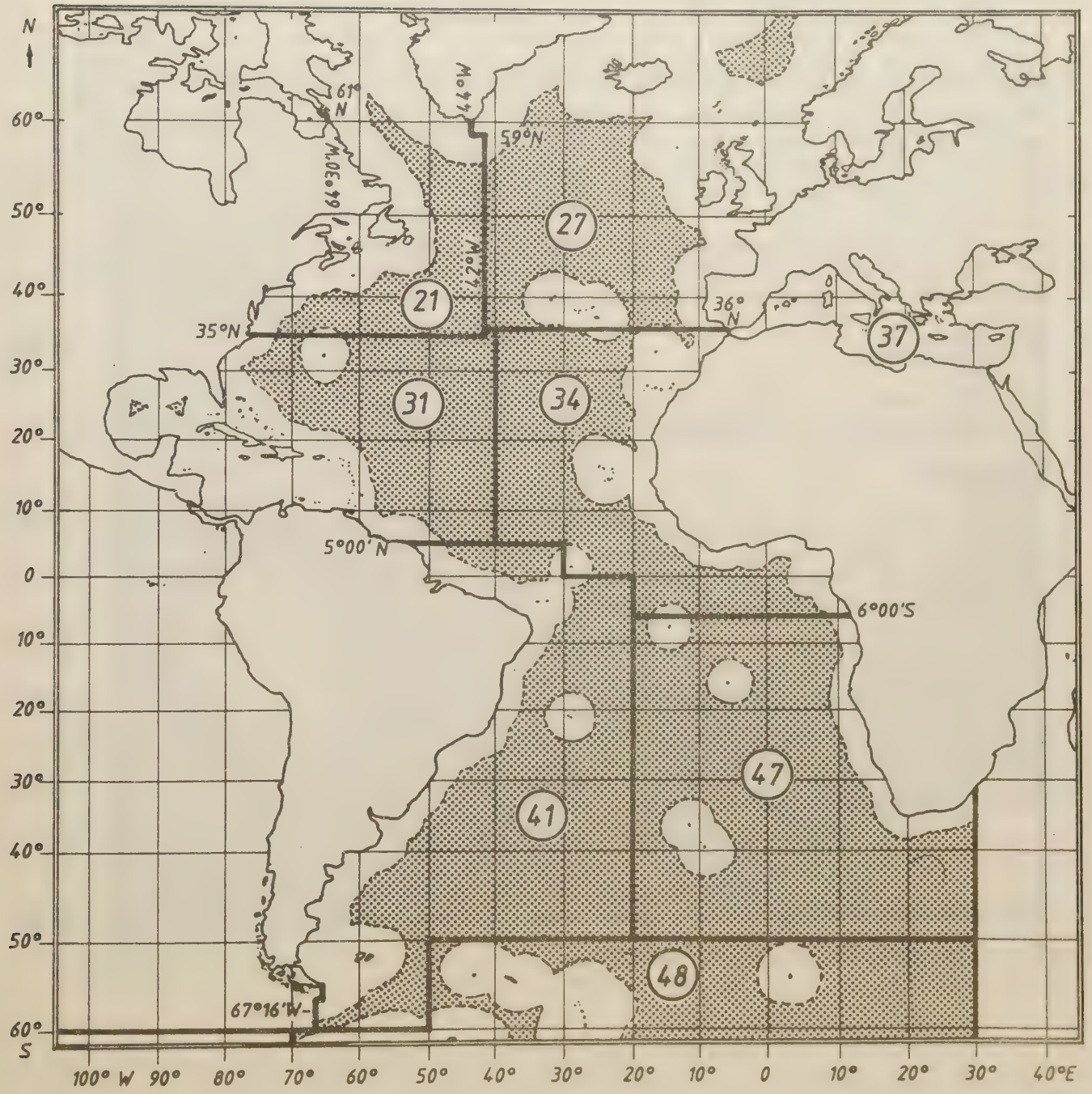
ICCAT has a scheme for Port Inspection as well as an Infraction Committee. The recommendations formulated by the Commission are subject to the objection procedure.

REMARKS:

The FAO and ICCAT concluded in November 1973 an agreement to ensure cooperation by consultation, coordination of effort, mutual assistance and joint action in particular in regard to the collection and analysis of statistics, stock assessment and the formulation of conservation and management measures.

MAP 10:

FAO Statistical Areas 21, 27, 31, 34, 37, 41, 47 and 48
covered by ICCAT



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICSEAF)

Established by the Convention on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the South Atlantic, drawn up in Rome on 23 October 1969, and entered into force on 24 October 1971. On 19 July 1990, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries adopted a Protocol for the Termination of the Convention. In accordance with the Protocol, the Convention shall terminate when all Contracting Parties have deposited an instrument of acceptance of the Protocol with the Director-General of FAO.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Commission is defined as all waters bounded by a line drawn as follows: beginning at a point 6°04'36" south latitude and 12°19-48" east longitude, thence in a northwesterly direction along a rhumb line to a point at the intersection of the meridian 12° east with the parallel 6° south, thence due west along this parallel to the meridian 20° west, thence due south along this meridian to the parallel 50° south, thence due east along this parallel to the meridian 40° east, thence due north along this meridian to the coast of the African continent, thence in a westerly direction along this coast to the original point of departure.

This area coincides with FAO Statistical Area 47 and part of areas 51 and 58. It overlaps the areas of competence of CCAMLR in the southeast and with an area serviced by IOFC in the east (see attached map 11).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Commission are all fish and living resources subject to arrangement with other bodies.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of July 1990 the members of the Commission were as follows: Angola, Bulgaria, Cuba, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Iraq, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, USSR.

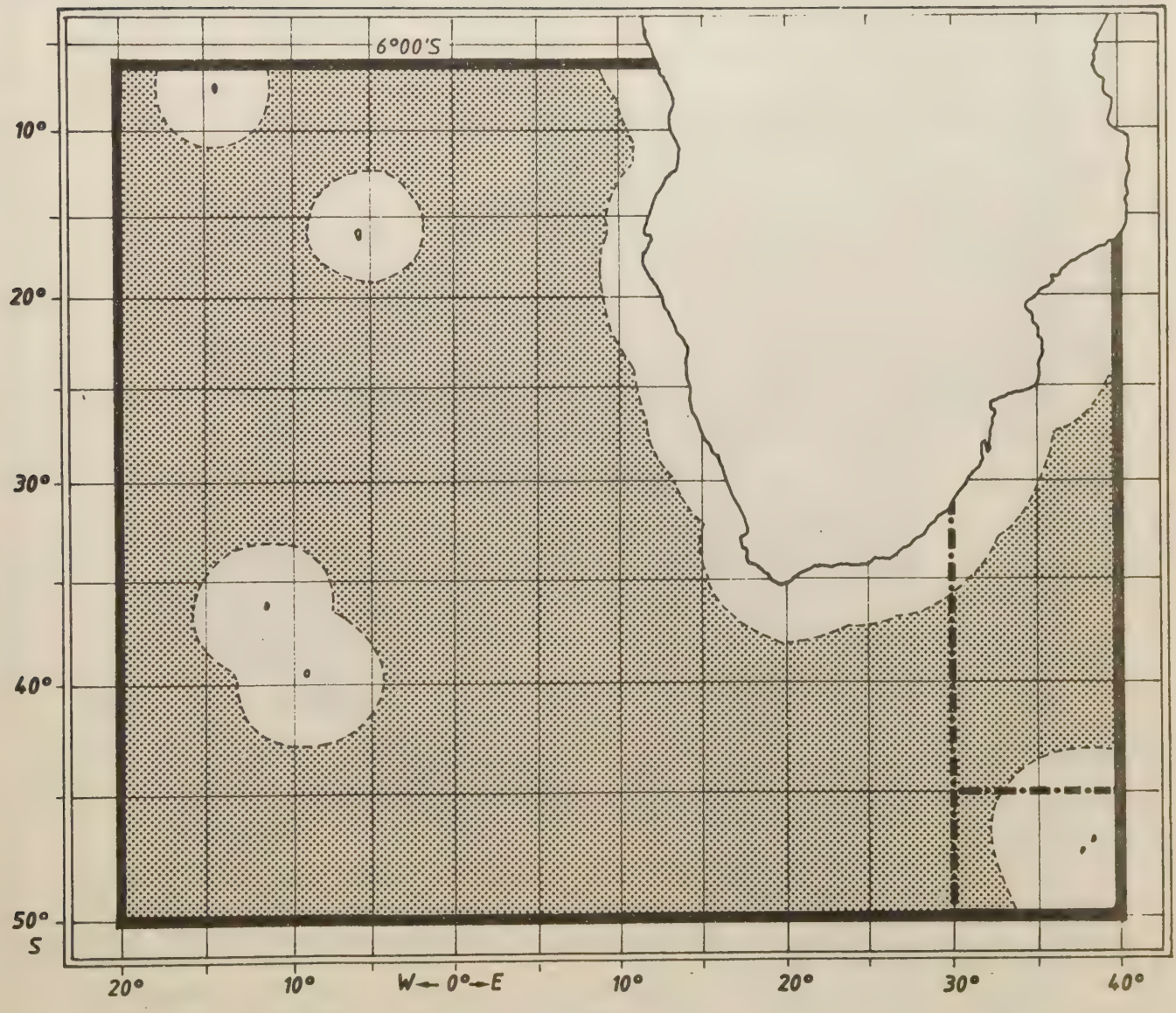
Membership to ICSEAF is widely opened.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

Although the Convention area includes large areas of high seas, the Commission concentrated its activities on stocks occurring in areas within 200 miles from the coast. It is now inactive.

MAP 11:

The ICSEAF area of competence. The dotted lines delimit FAO Statistical Areas 51 (on the east) and 58 (on south east)



INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION (IOFC)

Established by Resolution 2/48 adopted by the Council of FAO at its Forty-eighth Session in June 1967 under Article VI (1) of the FAO Constitution.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

IOFC's area of competence is defined by Resolution 2/48 as being the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas but excluding the Antarctic area. In practice, it has been considered that this was coinciding with FAO statistical areas 51 and 57 (see attached map 12). IOFC's area of competence comprises substantive part of high seas. From 1986 the boundary of statistical area 57 has been slightly changed in the Malacca Strait (see attached map 13 A). With regard to statistical area 51, it should be noted that (1) it includes part of the ICSEAF area between 30°E longitude and 40°E longitude (see attached map 13 B); and (2) the tuna stocks of the area between 20°E longitude and 30°E longitude (which is outside area 51) are biologically part of the Indian Ocean stocks and are not covered by ICCAT. This was taken into account in the preliminary negotiations for the setting up of an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Commission are all living marine resources. The Commission has a subsidiary body for the management of Indian Ocean tuna.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of October 1989, the members of the Commission were as follows: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Cuba, Ethiopia, Egypt, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, UK, USA, Viet Nam.

Membership to IOFC is widely opened.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

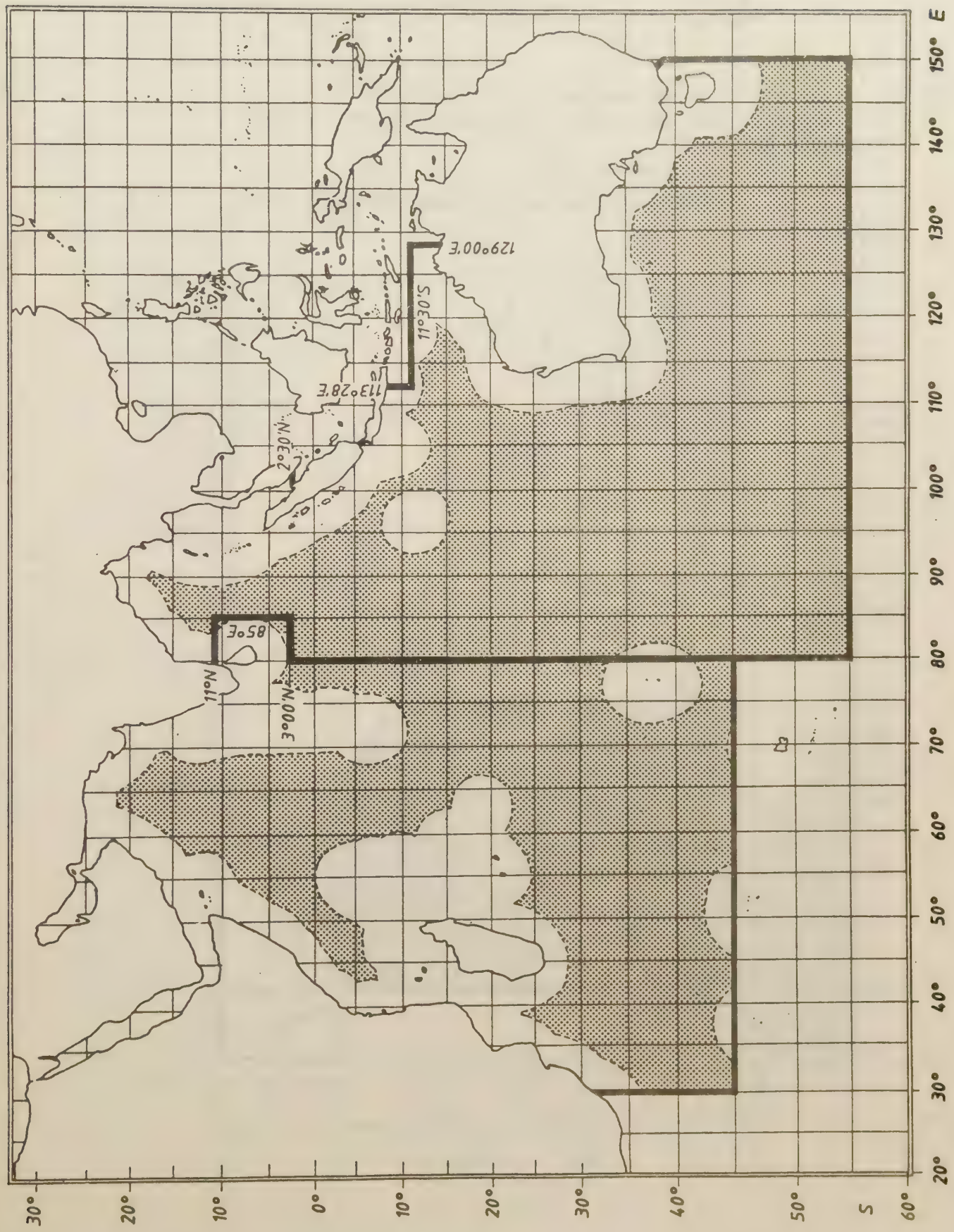
The function of IOFC are restricted for the time being to examining management problems throughout its area of competence. Steps are being taken to revise and strengthen these terms of reference in order to give IOFC responsibility to formulate conservation and management measures and to make appropriate recommendations for the adoption and implementation of these measures.

At its Eleventh Session in July 1990, the IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna recommended a moratorium on all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the Indian Ocean in the terms set up by UNGA Resolution 44/225.

Steps are being taken to establish an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which would substitute the IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna. This would, in practice, reduce the high seas activities of IOFC.

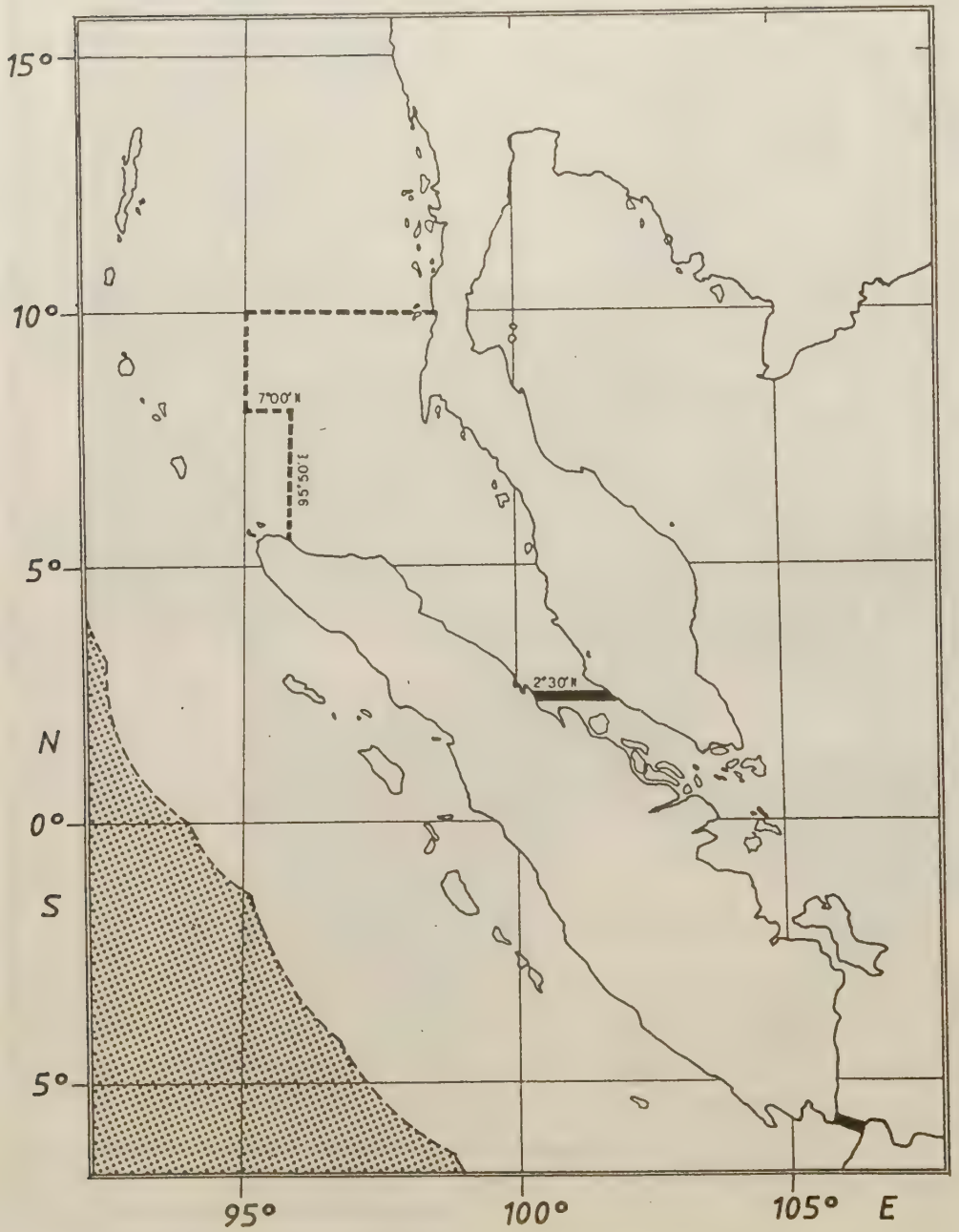
MAP 12:

FAO Statistical Areas 51 (left) and 57 (right)



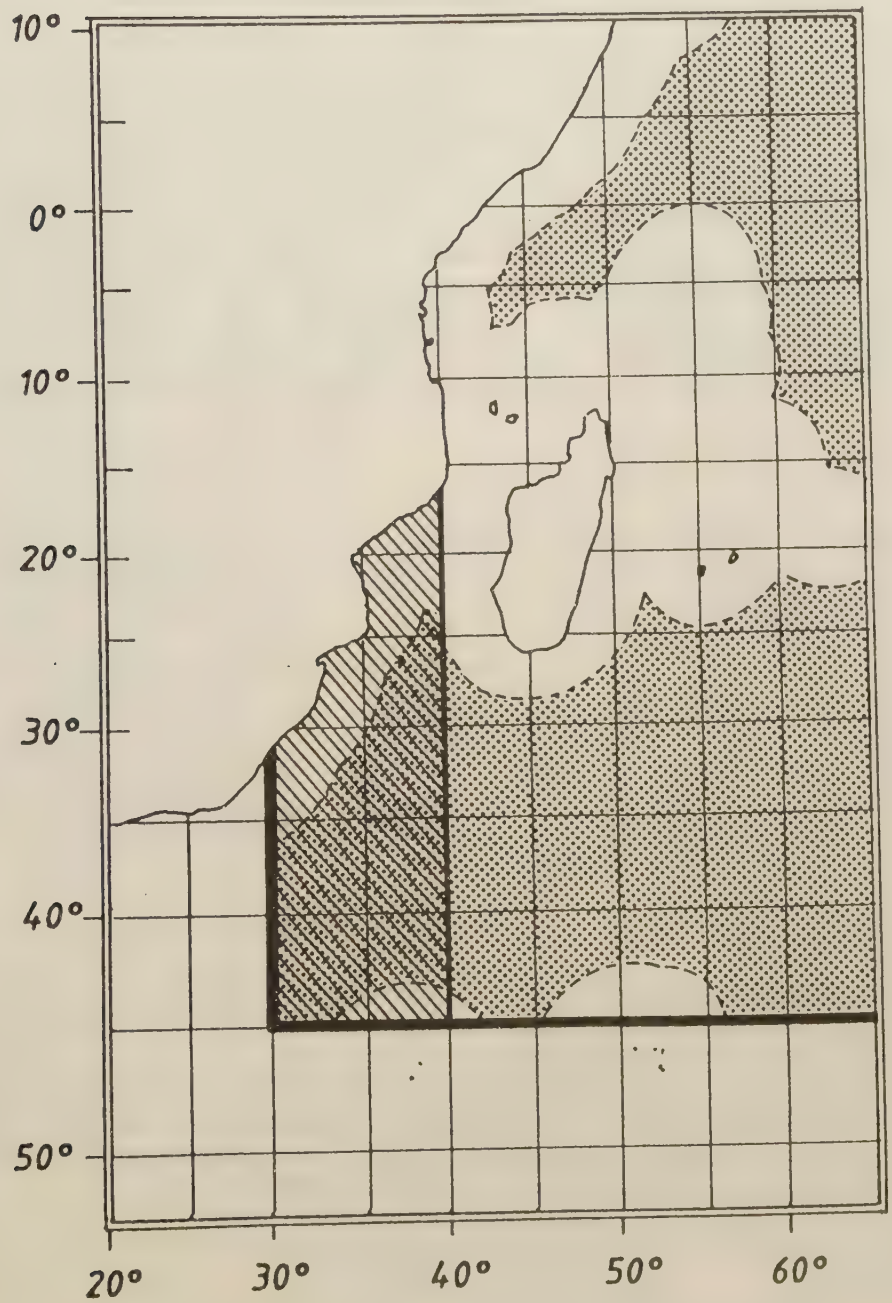
MAP 13 A:

Details of the eastern limits of FAO Statistical Area 57. The dotted line is the old boundary.



MAP 13 B:

South western limit of FAO Statistical Area 51. The stripped area is covered by ICSEAF.



INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (IPFC)

Established by an Agreement formulated at Baguio on 26 February 1948 pursuant to Article XIV of FAO Constitution. This Agreement entered into force on 9 November 1948, and was amended in 1952, 1955, 1958, 1961 and 1977.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The IPFC's area of competence is defined as the "Indo-Pacific area". There is no precise definition of this area by lines of longitude and latitude. When the FAO Council decided in 1967 to establish the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission, it noted that the creation of this new fishery Commission might lead to a withdrawal of interest in the Indian Ocean by the IPFC.

In December 1990, an IPFC's Ad hoc Committee on structure, functions and responsibilities of IPFC, agreed that the area of competence of the Commission did not need to be defined precisely on the understanding that in practice the Commission would give priority to marine fishery resources in the new FAO Statistical Area 71. In addition, this Committee felt that it was necessary to abandon the reference to the "Indo-Pacific region" and to refer to the "Asia and Pacific region". These suggestions will be considered by IPFC itself at its next Session.

Maps 14 and 15 illustrate the changes in the limits of the FAO Statistical Areas that will appear in the 1990 edition of the FAO Statistical Yearbook. Map 16 shows in more detail the new FAO Statistical Area 71.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Commission are both marine and inland living aquatic resources.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of December 1990, the members of IPFC were as follows: Australia, Bangladesh, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, USA, Viet Nam. At the Eighteenth Session of COFI in 1989, China announced its interest in joining IPFC.

Membership to IPFC is widely opened.

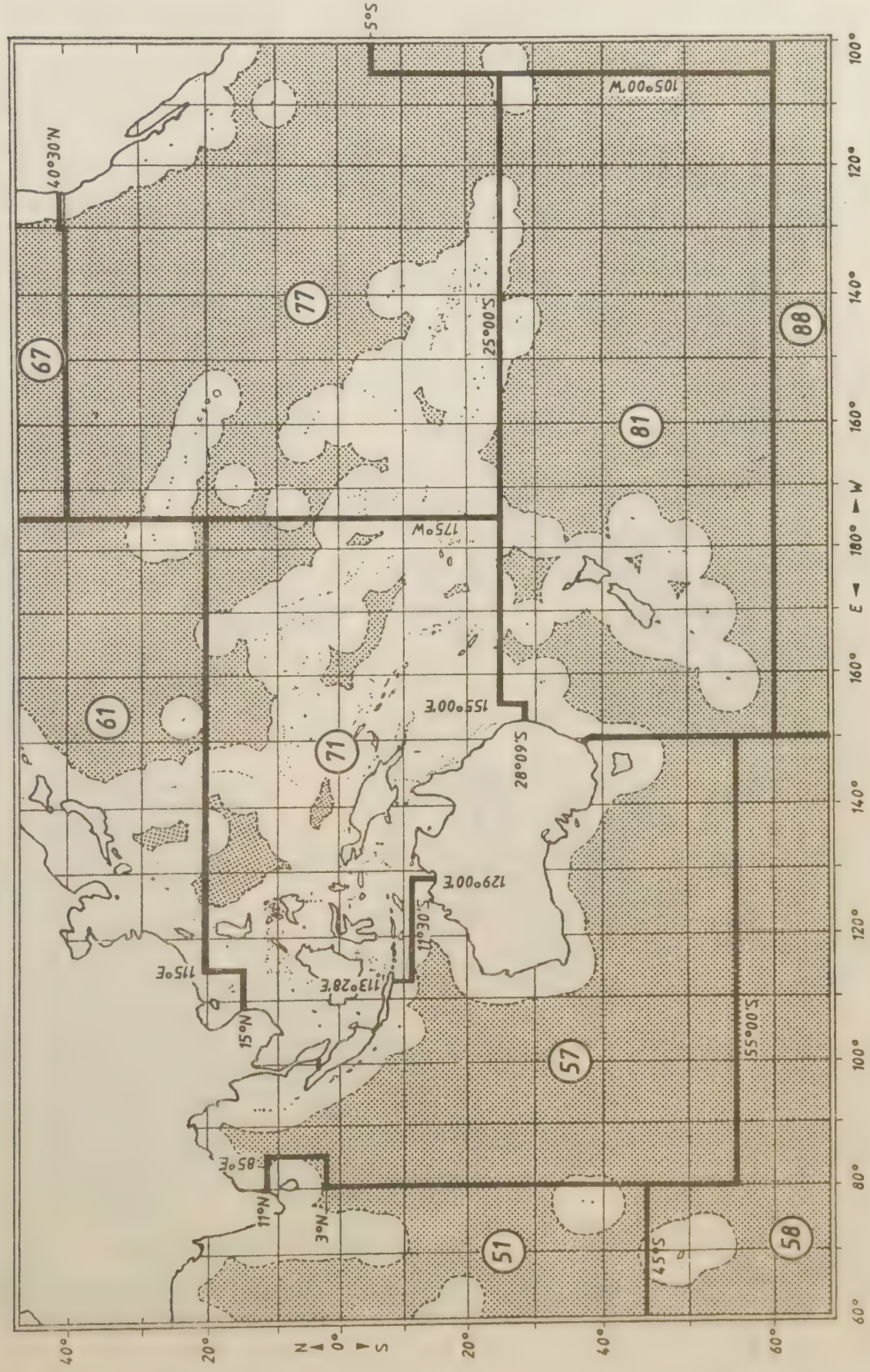
HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

Although IPFC is empowered to recommend measures concerning the conservation and management of high seas resources, the Commission has never formulated such a recommendation.

At its Seventeenth Session in October 1976, IPFC's members reviewed a proposal for the adoption of the objection procedure. It was decided, however, that this question was premature and was therefore postponed to future meetings.

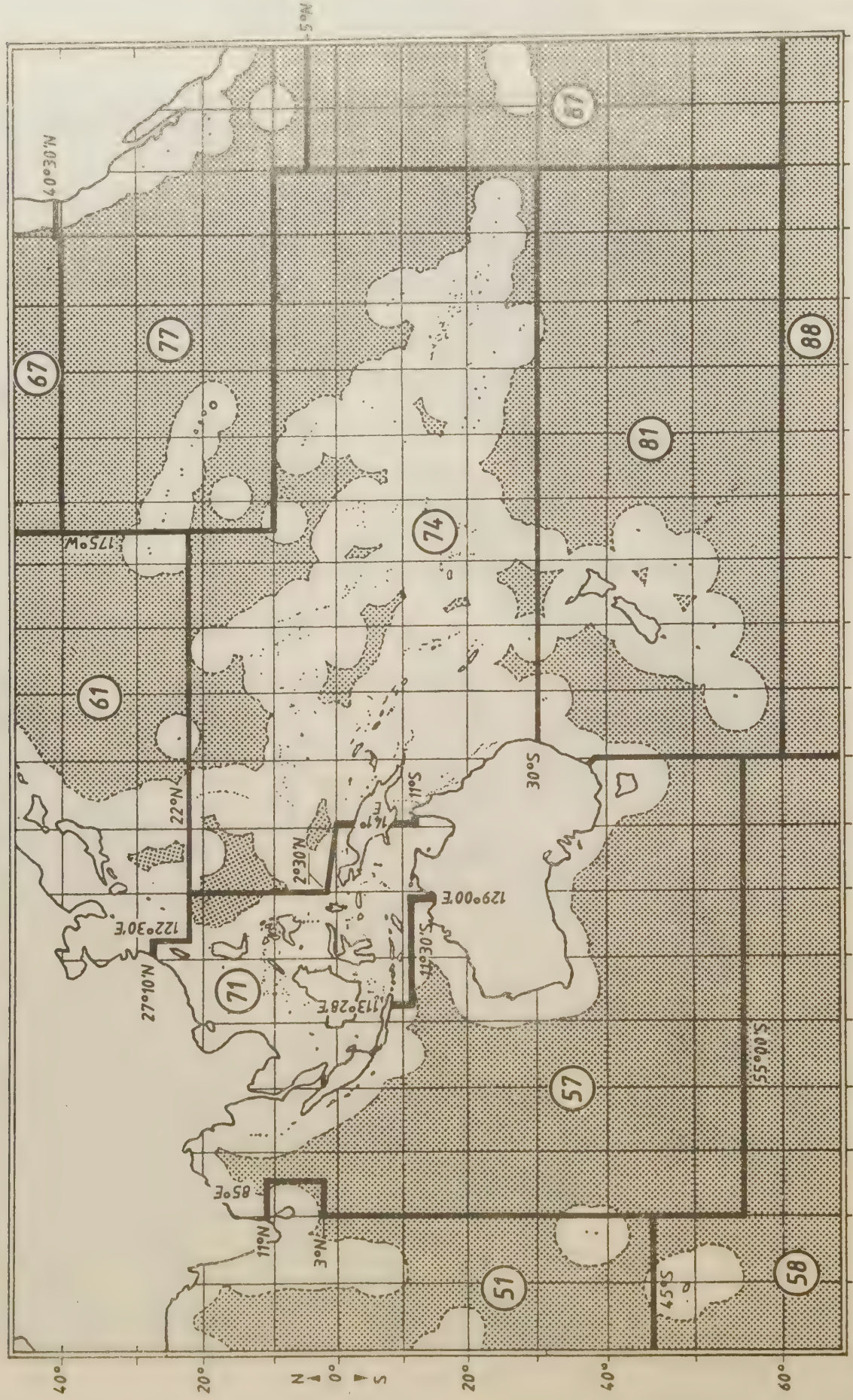
MAP 14:

Limits of FAO Statistical areas in the IPFC region used in the 1988 FAO Statistical Yearbook



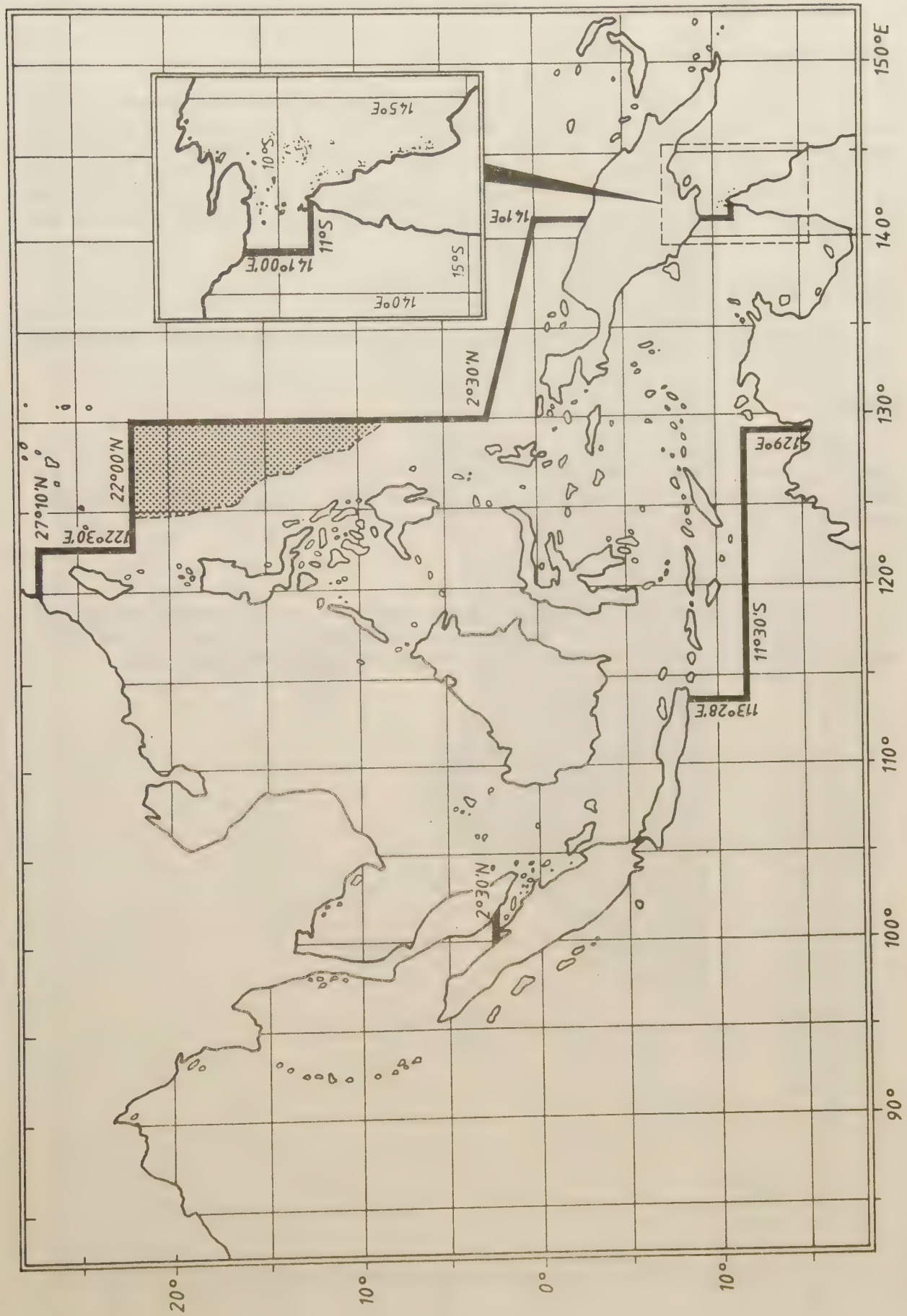
MAP 15:

Limits of FAO Statistical areas in the IPFC region as will appear in the 1990 FAO Statistical Yearbook



MAP 16:

Detailed map of the new FAO Statistical Area 71 (as it will appear in FAO Statistical Yearbook 1990)



NORTH PACIFIC MARINE SCIENCE ORGANIZATION (PICES)

Created by a Convention done in Ottawa on 12 December, 1990 (not yet in force).

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Organization includes the temperate and sub-Arctic region of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, especially northward from 30 degrees north latitude. However, activities of the Organization, for scientific reasons, may extend farther southward in the North Pacific ocean. This area coincides with FAO Statistical Area 67, as well as part of FAO Statistical Areas 61 and 77 (see attached map 17).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Organization will be all living marine resources within its area of competence.

MEMBERSHIP:

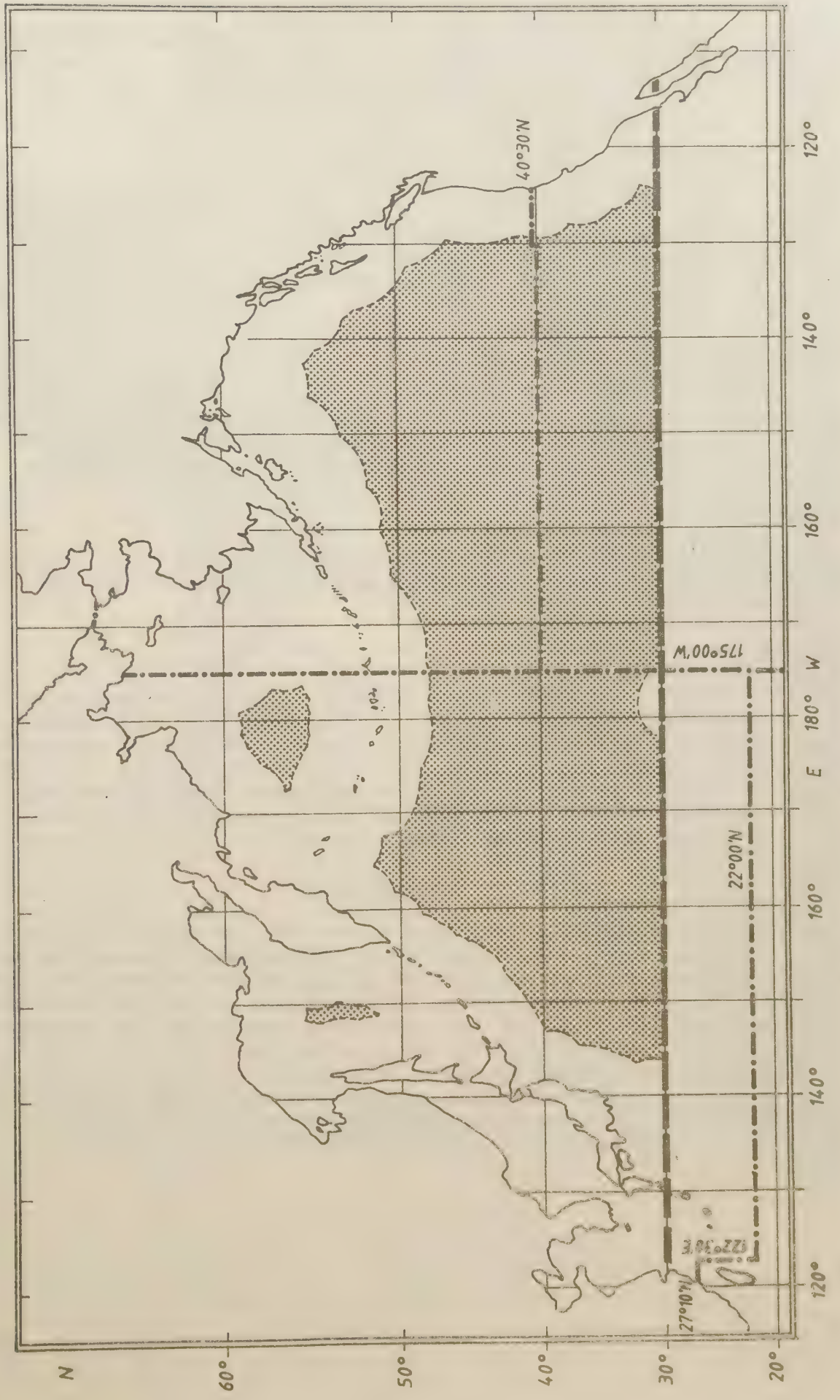
The Convention will be open for signature to the following countries: Canada, China, Japan, the USA and the USSR. In addition, after it has entered into force, it will be open for accession by non-signatory States, subject to objection of any Party.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

The activities of the Organization will be of a purely scientific nature, and will cover both areas under national jurisdiction and high seas. PICES will not be empowered to recommend regulatory measures.

MAP 17:

Area to be especially covered by PICES



INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (INPFC)

Created by the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean signed at Tokyo on 9 May 1952. The Convention entered into force on 12 June 1953. It was amended by a protocol signed at Tokyo on 25 April 1978 and entered into force on 15 February 1979.

AREA OF COMPTENCE:

The convention applies to all waters, other than territorial waters, of the North Pacific Ocean including adjacent seas. There is no precise delimitation of this area by lines of longitude and latitude. INPFC activities are concentrated in FAO statistical area 67 and part of FAO statistical areas 61 and 77.

SPECIES COVERED:

INPFC currently regulates high seas fishing for anadromous species. The Commission provides a forum for cooperation among the contracting parties with respect to the study, analysis and exchange of scientific information relating to the stock of anadromous and non-anadromous species.

MEMBERSHIP:

The members of the Commission are Canada, Japan and United States of America. It does not include the other countries fishing on the high seas in the North Pacific.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES

Since its establishment, the Commission regulated the activities of the salmon fisheries on the high seas. (See attached map 18 summarizing the present regulations). In addition to its studies on anadromous species, the Commission is used by its member countries to foster scientific cooperation with regard to non anadromous species found both in high seas areas and/or in EEZs such as marine mammals, shrimps, squid, groundfishes and king and tanner crabs.

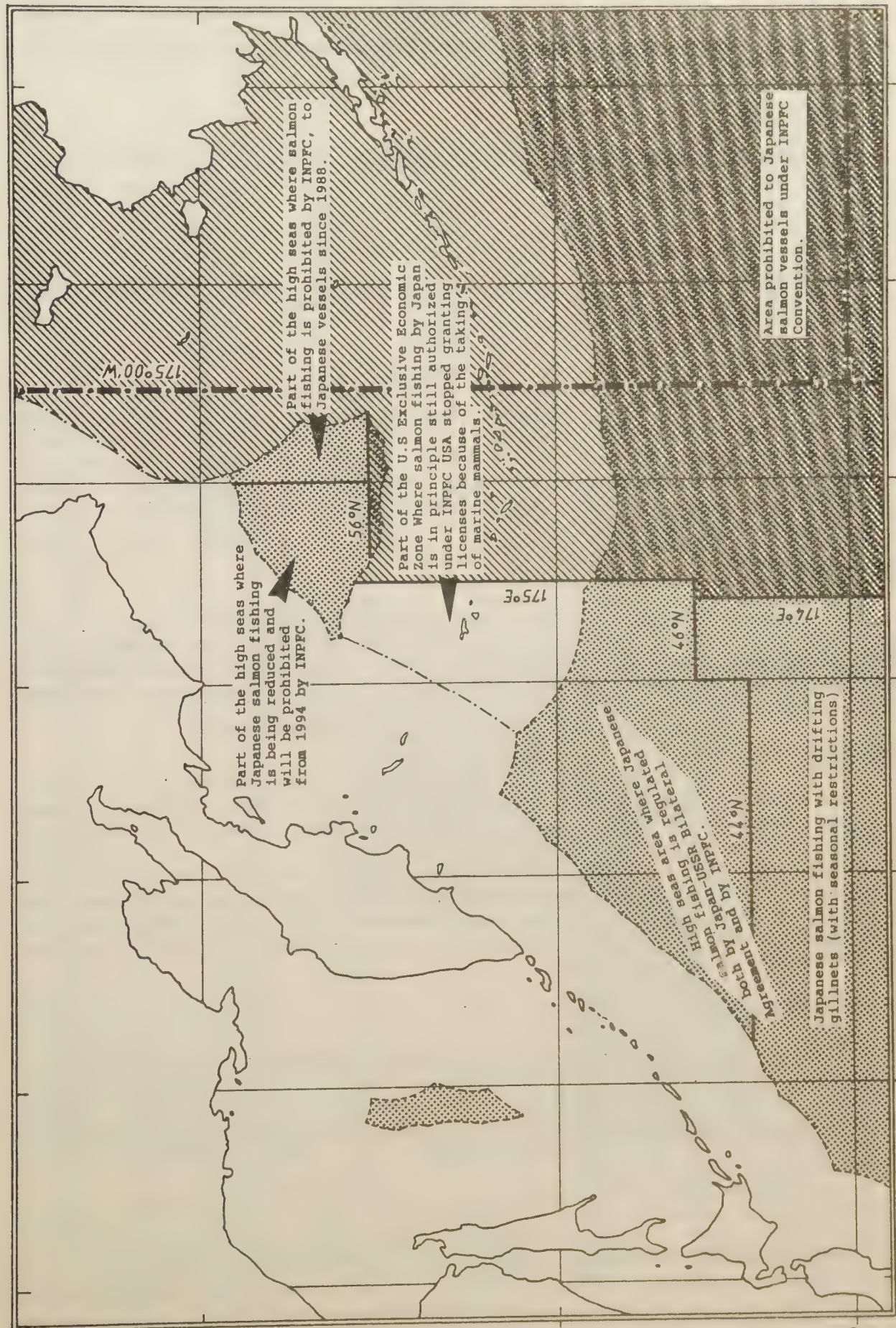
REMARKS:

Article IV of the INPFC Convention states that the contracting parties shall work towards the establishment of an international organization with broader membership dealing with species of the Convention area other than anadromous species. When such an international organization becomes functional, the functions of the Commission concerning non anadromous species shall be transferred to the new organization.

In October 1990, Canada hosted in Ottawa discussions with the USA, the USSR and Japan which focused on the principal elements to be addressed in a new Convention for anadromous species in the North Pacific. Negotiations on the proposed Convention are to be held from 25 to 27 June 1991.

MAP 18:

INPFC regulation for salmon fishing in the North Pacific



INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (I-ATTC)

Created by the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, signed at Washington, on 31 May 1949 and entered into force on 3 March 1950.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Commission is defined as the "Eastern Pacific Ocean". There is no precise definition of this area by lines of longitudes and latitudes. In 1962, a Commission's Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) was created. This "Regulatory area" was defined as follows: All waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean bounded by the mainland of the Americas and the following lines: beginning at a point on the mainland where the parallel of 40 degrees north latitude intersects the coast; thence due west to the meridian of 125 degrees west longitude; thence due south to the parallel of 20 degrees north latitude; thence due east to the meridian of 120 degrees west longitude; thence due south to the parallel of 5 degrees north latitude; thence due east to the meridian of 110 degrees west longitude; thence due south to the parallel of 10 degrees south latitude; thence due east to the meridian of 90 degrees west longitude; thence due south to the parallel of 30 degrees south latitude; thence due east to a point on the mainland where the parallel of 30 degrees south latitude intersects the coast. This area which includes substantive areas of high seas, coincides with part of FAO Statistical Areas 77 and 87 (see attached map 19).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by I-ATTC are as follows: yellowfin and skipjack tuna, fish used a bait for tuna and other fish taken by tuna vessels. The I-ATTC staff has also studied other species of tuna (bigeye, black skipjack, bluefin tuna, albacore) and billfishes. Since 1976, it implements a programme on tuna dolphin relationship.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of I-ATTC is as follows: Costa Rica, France, Japan, Nicaragua, Panama, USA and Vanuatu. Venezuela and Colombia initiated the procedure to become members.

Membership of the Commission is open to any States whose nationals participate in fisheries in the I-ATTC Convention area, provided that the Contracting Parties give their unanimous consent. A protocol amending this provision in order to facilitate accession to membership is being considered by I-ATTC member countries.

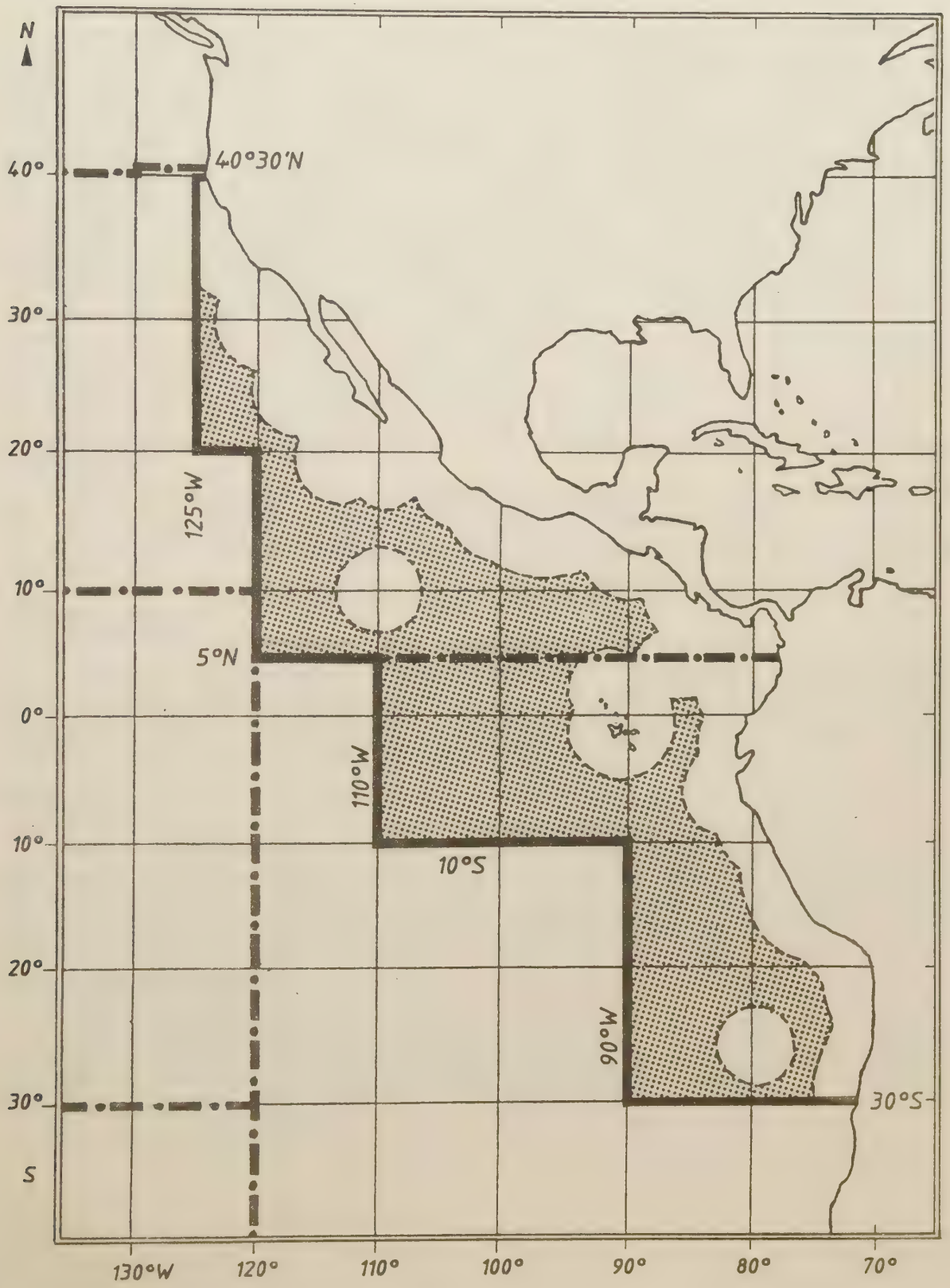
HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

I-ATTC is *inter alia* empowered to recommend proposals for joint action by its members designed to keep the populations of fishes covered by the Convention at those levels of abundance which will permit the maximum sustained catch. The I-ATTC staff has recommended catch quota for yellowfin for each year of the 1962-1990 period except 1987. These recommendations were implemented from 1966 to 1979.

In September 1990, representatives of 15 Governments participating in an intergovernmental meeting held in San José (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Spain, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela) agreed that I-ATTC was the most appropriate entity to coordinate the technical aspects of an international programme for the reduction of incidental mortality of dolphins caught both in EEZ and on high seas in association with tuna in the purse-seine fishery of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.

MAP 19:

The I-ATTC Yellowfin Regulatory Area



COUNCIL OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA FISHING AGREEMENT (CEPTFA)

Established by the Eastern Pacific Ocean Tuna Fishing Agreement, signed at San José, on 12 April 1983 (not yet in force).

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The Agreement area is defined as the area bounded by a line from the point on the mainland where the parallel of 40°N latitude intersects the coast westward along the parallel of 40°N latitude to 40°N latitude by 125°W longitude, thence southerly along the meridian of 125°W longitude to 20°N latitude by 125°W longitude, then easterly along the parallel of 20°N latitude to 20°N latitude by 120°W longitude, thence southerly along the meridian of 120°W longitude to 5°N latitude by 120°W longitude, thence easterly along the parallel of 5°N latitude to 5°N latitude by 110°W longitude, thence southerly along the meridian of 110°W longitude to 10°S latitude by 110°W longitude, thence easterly along the parallel of 10°S latitude to 10°S latitude by 90°W longitude, thence southerly along the meridian of 90°W longitude to 30°S latitude by 90°W longitude, thence easterly along the parallel of 30°S latitude to the point on the mainland where the parallel intersects the coast, excluding the areas within 12 nautical miles of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial sea is measured and those areas within 200 nautical miles of the baselines of coastal States not signatories to this Agreement, measured from the same baseline.

This area coincides with part of FAO Statistical Areas 77 and 87. It should be noted that the seaward limit of CEPTFA area of competence coincides with the yellowfin regulatory area established by IATTC (see page 37, map 19).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Agreement are as follows: yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore tuna, northern bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, skipjack tuna, black skipjack, kawakawa, bullet tuna, frigate tuna, eastern Pacific bonito, Indo-Pacific bonito.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of the Council will be open to States bordering the Agreement area or to members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC) at the time that the Agreement enters into force. Other States may also adhere subject to the unanimous approval by the Council.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

The Council's main activity on the high seas will be to issue licences permitting access to fishing in the Agreement area, to vessels of State Parties against payment of a fee based on net registered tons of the vessel requesting the licence.

EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA FISHING ORGANIZATION (OAPO)

Established by an Agreement signed at Lima on 21 July 1989 (not yet in force).

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the Organization is defined as the Eastern Pacific Ocean through which the species covered by the Agreement roam. This area includes, not only the 200 miles zones adjacent to island and continental territories of the State Parties, but also high seas areas adjacent to these zones, up to the meridian 145°W longitude, (see attached map 20). This area coincides with part of FAO Statistical Areas 77, 81, 87 and 74.

SPECIES COVERED:

OAPO will cover the following species: yellowfin tuna, skipjack, northern bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, albacore, bigeye tuna.

MEMBERSHIP:

Not applicable since the Convention is not yet in force.

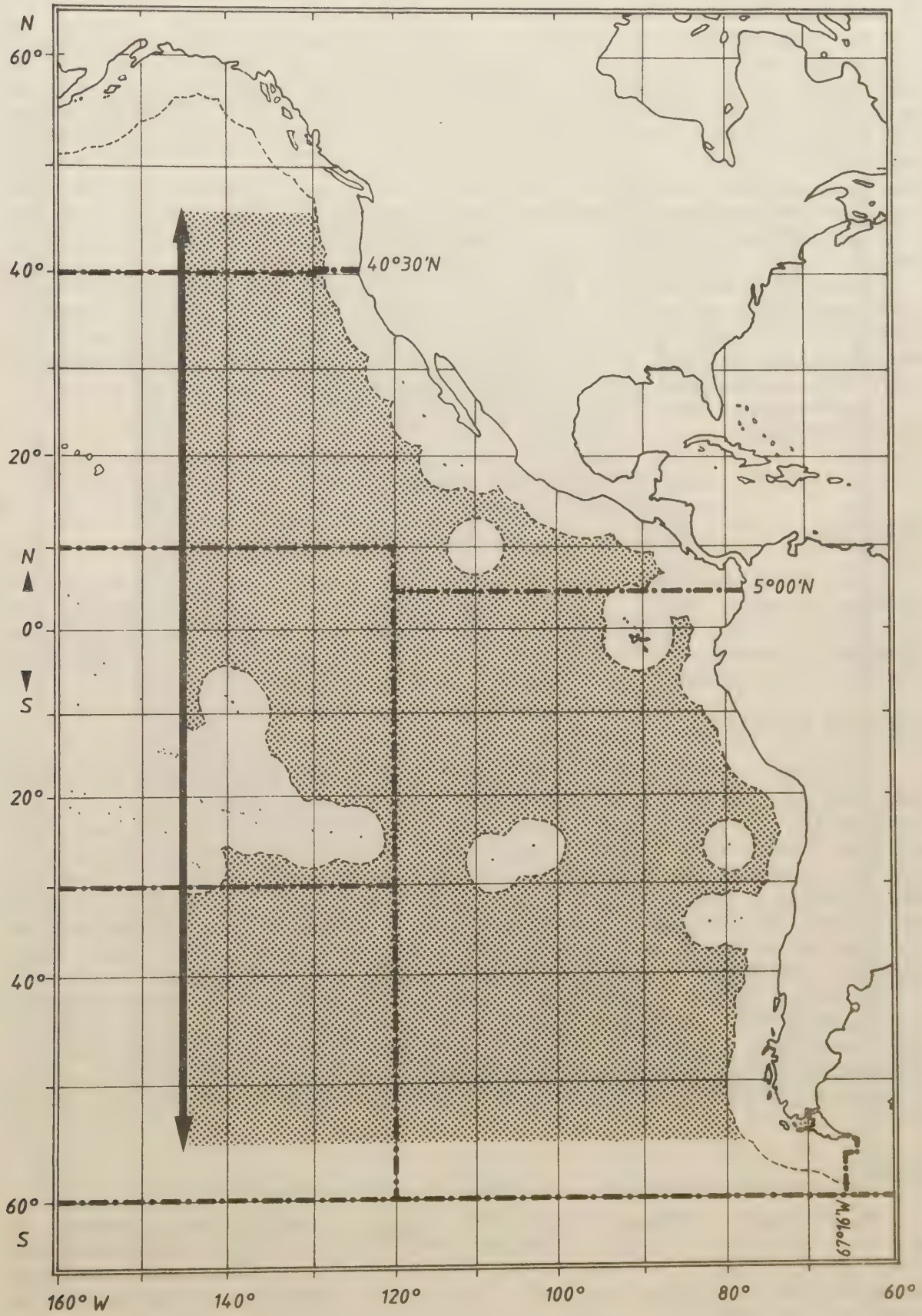
Membership in OAPO will be open to Eastern Pacific Coastal Nations and also to other States whose vessels have fished the above-mentioned species within the area. The admission of non-Coastal States will be subject to the approval of the Governing Board of the Organization.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

OAPO's main activities on the high seas will be: (1) to study the biology, ecology, biometry and dynamics of the above-mentioned tuna populations, (2) to recommend the necessary measures to ensure the conservation of fish stocks and to maintain them at levels of abundance that, in ensuring optimum utilization through rational exploitation, permits their maximum sustainable yield, (3) to reduce to a minimum any incidental killing and/or serious injury to marine mammals. In order to achieve these ends, OAPO will be empowered to recommend for the high seas areas covered by the Agreement measures such as (i) the establishment of annual catch quotas per species, bearing in mind, in particular, the total sum of the national quotas fixed by each Coastal State for the seas area adjacent to its coasts up to 200 miles, (ii) the granting of international permits or licenses to vessels of State Parties against payment of a fee fixed annually, (iii) the establishment of open and closed season, (iv) the determination of the allowable levels of incidental catches, and (v) the modification of the list of species covered by the Agreement as well as modification of the Agreement's area of application on the high seas.

MAP 20:

Area covered by the OAPO Convention



SOUTH PACIFIC PERMANENT COMMISSION (CPPS)

Established by the agreement on the Organization of the Permanent Commission of the Conference on the Use and Conservation of the Marine Resources of the South Pacific, signed at Santiago on 18 August 1952.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The Agreement on the Organization of the Permanent Commission does not explicitly define a specific geographical area to be served by the Commission. It merely provides that the Permanent Commission is established in order to achieve the object set forth in the Declaration on the Maritime Zone. This Declaration states that the three Governments proclaim as a principle of their international maritime policy that each of them possess sole sovereignty and jurisdiction over the area of the sea, the sea floor and the sub-soil thereof adjacent to the coast of its own country and extending not less than 200 nautical miles from the said coast.

Regarding the sea area beyond 200 mile, the situation is unclear. By a Declaration adopted in Vina del Mar in February 1984, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CPPS member countries stated that the Coastal States had responsibility for the conservation and protection of living resources of their maritime jurisdiction areas and adjacent areas.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the Commission are all living marine resource.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of the Permanent Commission is as follows: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru. None of the agreements or declarations of the four conferences, nor any of the resolutions or recommendations of the Permanent Commission, mention conditions to be fulfilled regarding eligibility for membership.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

In 1984, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CPPS member countries referred to the "legitimate interests of the Coastal States in the conservation and optimum utilization of the marine resources beyond their 200 mile zones, when these resources are part of the same populations of species existing in their 200 mile zones, or populations of species associated with them". They instructed the CPPS Secretariat to take action with a view to consider the possibility of establishing adequate mechanisms for the conservation and optimum utilization of these resources. More recently CPPS was active in promoting trans-Pacific cooperation.

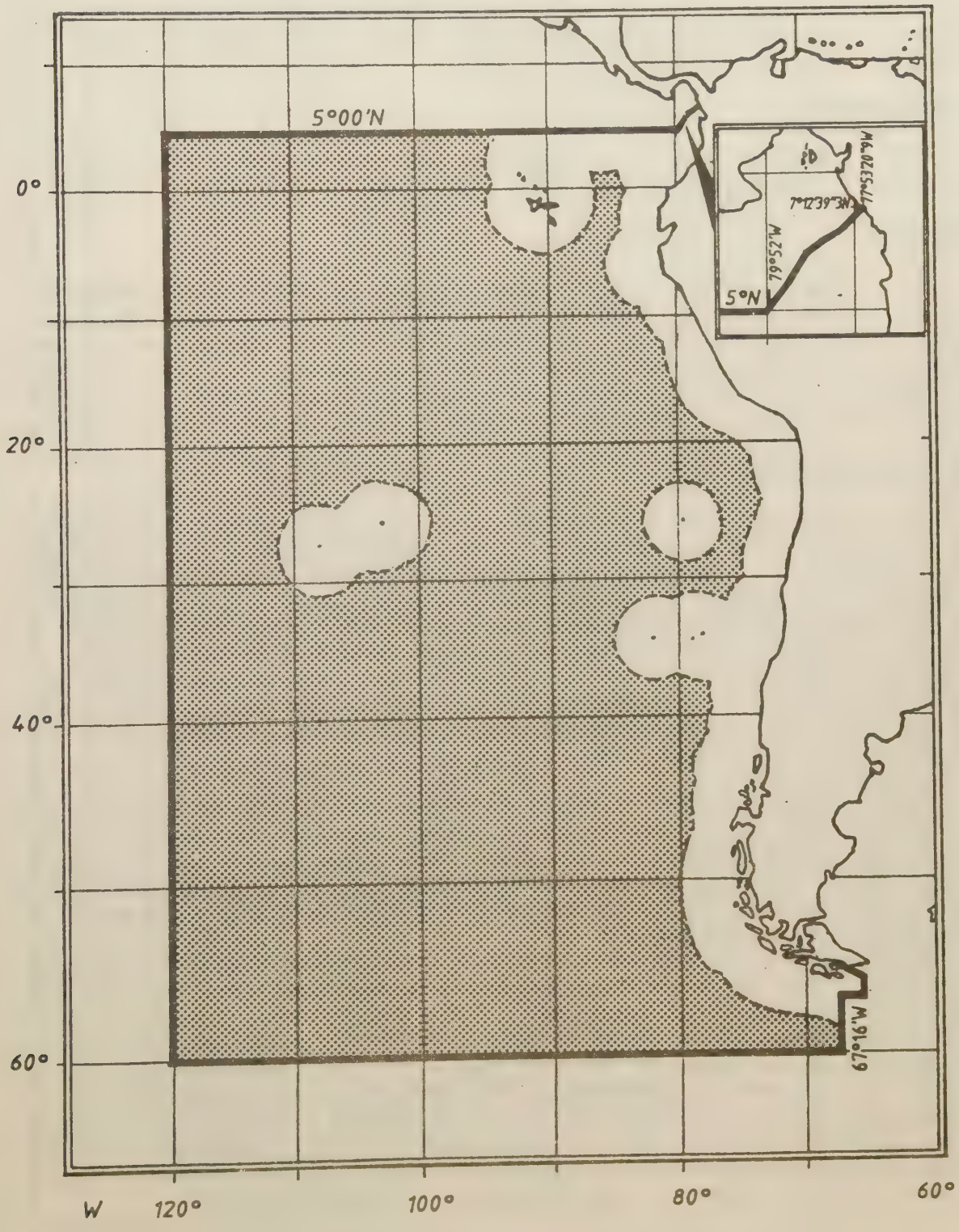
CPPS is cooperating with FAO in the collection of fisheries statistics in the whole FAO Statistical Area 87 which includes substantial area of high seas (see map 21). CPPS, cooperated with OLDEPESCA, in the preparation of the Convention for the conservation, protection and optimal utilization of tuna fish in the Eastern Pacific which was signed on 21 July 1989.

REMARKS:

On 26 April 1985, FAO and CPPS signed a Cooperation Agreement on matters of interest to both organizations, such as fishery management and development, research on the living resources of the sea, staff training, dissemination of information, and the planning, preparation and holding of technical and scientific meetings.

MAP 21:

FAO Statistical Area 87



SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY (FFA)

Established by International Convention, opened for signature in Honiara on 10 July 1979. The Convention entered into force on 9 August 1979.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The FFA's area of competence is the South Pacific region. There is no precise definition of this area by lines of longitude and latitude. It coincides mainly with new FAO statistical areas 74 and 81. (see page 30, map 15).

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by the FFA are all living marine resources and particularly highly migratory species.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of October 1990, the membership of the FFA was as follows: Australia, Cook Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa.

Membership is open to members of the South Pacific Forum and to other States or territories in the region, subject to the approval of the Forum.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

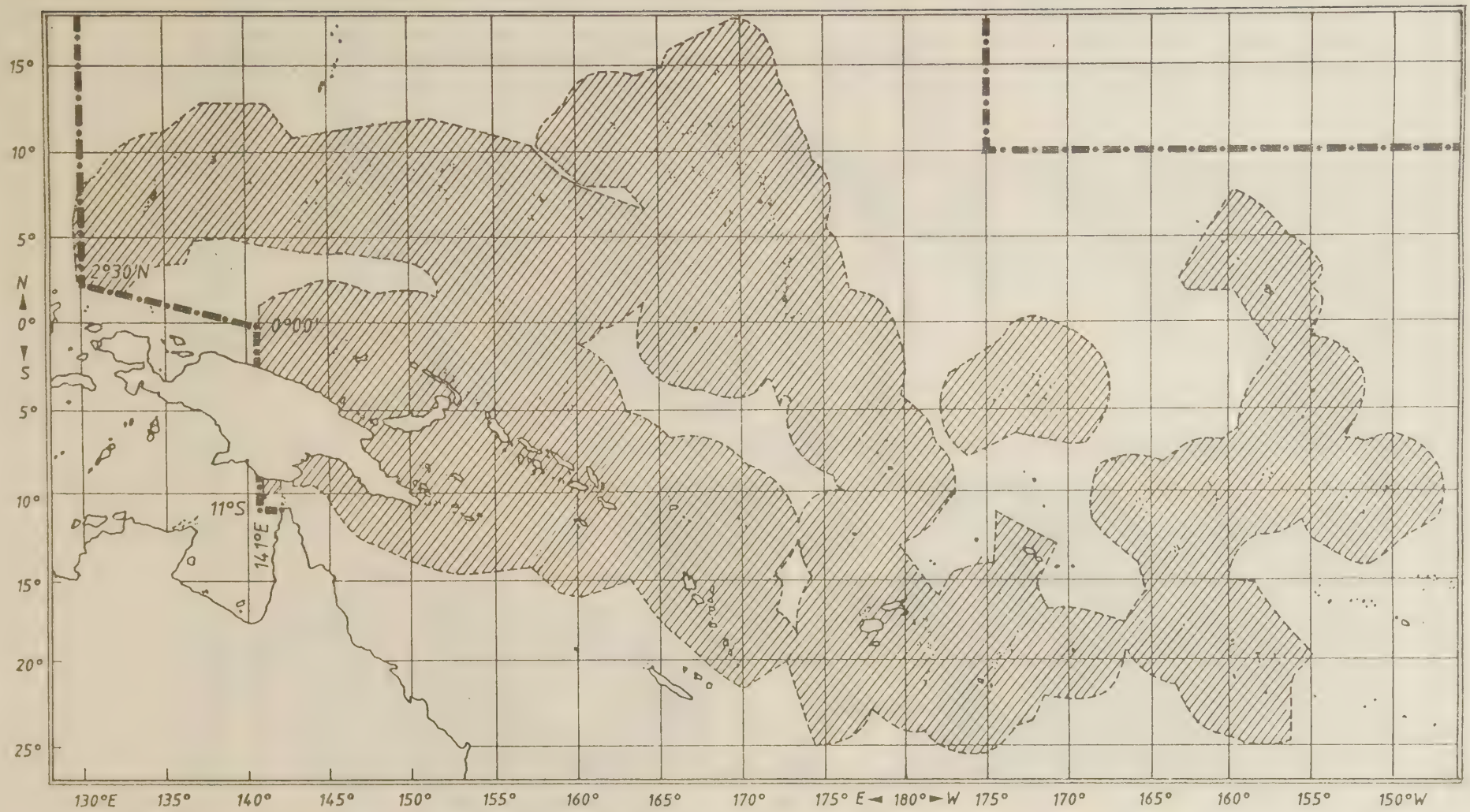
The functions of the Agency are, in particular, to promote intra-regional co-ordination and co-operation in the following fields: (i) harmonisation of policies with respect to fisheries management; (ii) co-operation in respect of relations with distant water fishing countries; (iii) co-operation in surveillance and enforcement; (iv) co-operation in respect of onshore fish processing; (v) co-operation in marketing; (vi) co-operation in respect of access to the 200 mile zones of other Parties. In its first years of existence, FFA concentrated its activities on the problems raised by the exploitation of resources within the areas under the jurisdiction of its island Member States (access, MCS, etc.). These areas are shown in map 22.

Subsequently, the FFA Director was designated as the "Administrator" for the purpose of the Treaty on Fisheries concluded on 2 April 1987 between FFA Member States and the USA. This Treaty covers tuna fishing vessels flying the flag of the USA operating both in certain areas under the fishery jurisdiction of the FFA Member States and in certain adjacent areas of high seas (see map 23).

Moreover, the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing With Long Driftnets in the South Pacific, concluded at Wellington on 24 November 1989, sets forth specific functions for the FFA within a Convention area which includes substantial areas of high seas (see attached map 24). These functions to be performed by FFA with respect to the whole Convention area are (i) the collection, preparation and dissemination of information on driftnet fishing activities, (ii) the facilitation of scientific analysis on the effect of driftnet fishing activities and (iii) the preparation and transmission to the Parties of an annual report on any driftnet fishing activities and the measures taken to implement the Convention.

MAP 22:

Areas under fisheries jurisdiction of FFA Island Member Countries



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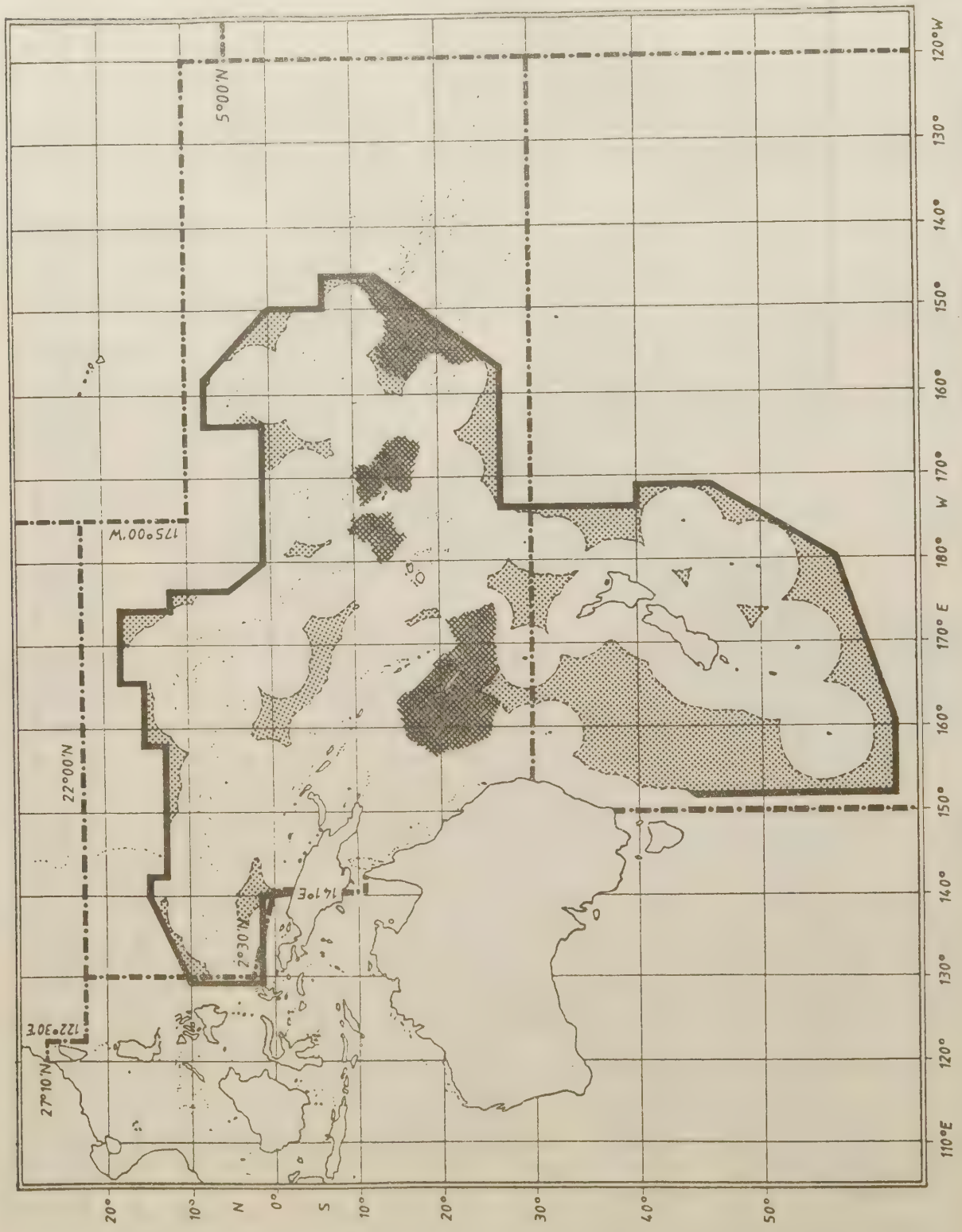
N.B.: This map, prepared by the FFA, was published in "Marine Policy" in July 1990 together with an article by the Deputy Director of FFA. Subsequently the author of this Circular was informed by FFA that the Agency had recently established a delimitation unit to assist member countries in setting accurately their boundaries and that this will result in changes to existing maps.

MAP 23:

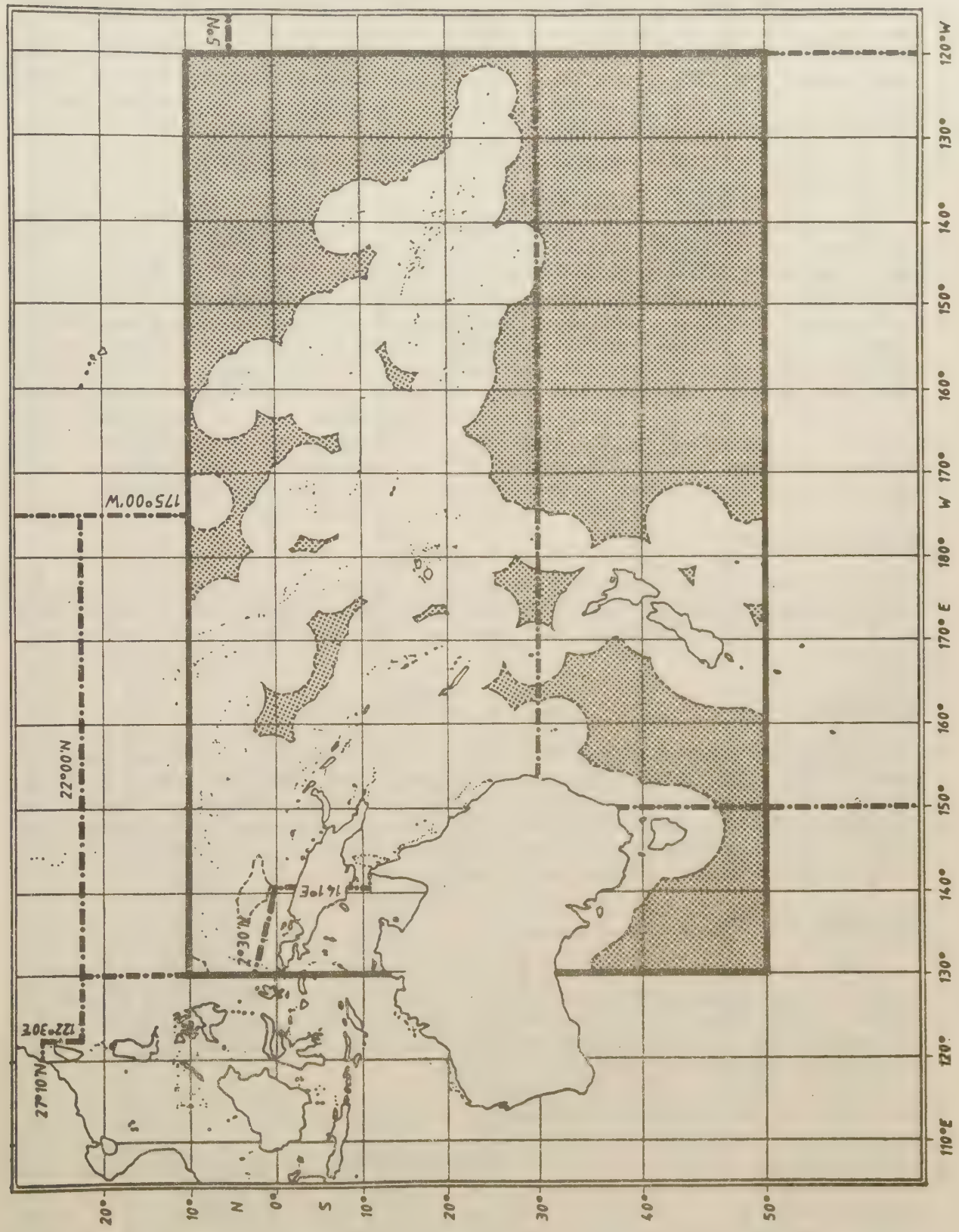
Area covered by the 1987 Treaty on Fisheries between Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America



Darker areas indicate zones under the fisheries jurisdiction of countries which are not members of FFA.

MAP 24:

Area covered by the Wellington Convention



SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION (SPC)

Established by an Agreement signed at Canberra on 6 February 1947, entered into force on 29 July 1948, amended in 1952, 1954, 1964 and supplemented by Protocols of understanding in 1974 and 1976. The Commission activities are not restricted to fisheries and also cover agriculture and plant protection, rural development, education, health information and cultural exchanges.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The territorial scope of the Commission was defined by the Canberra Agreement as all those territories in the Pacific Ocean which are administered by the participating Governments and which lie wholly or in part south of the Equator and east from and including the Australian Territory of Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea, and Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. There is no precise definition of this area by lines of longitude and latitude in the Agreement. During many years the Commission published a map showing its area of competence which is attached as map 25. This area coincides with part of FAO Statistical Area 74. Since the end of the 80's, the Commission also adopted a SPC statistical area which is larger than the previous one and coincides with part of statistical areas 74, 81, 61 and 71 (see attached map 26).

SPECIES COVERED:

The Commission operates five coastal fisheries projects covering all living marine resources and an oceanic programme, which deals exclusively with tunas and billfishes and consists of two projects (statistics, research).

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of the South Pacific Commission is as follows: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, U.K., U.S.A., Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

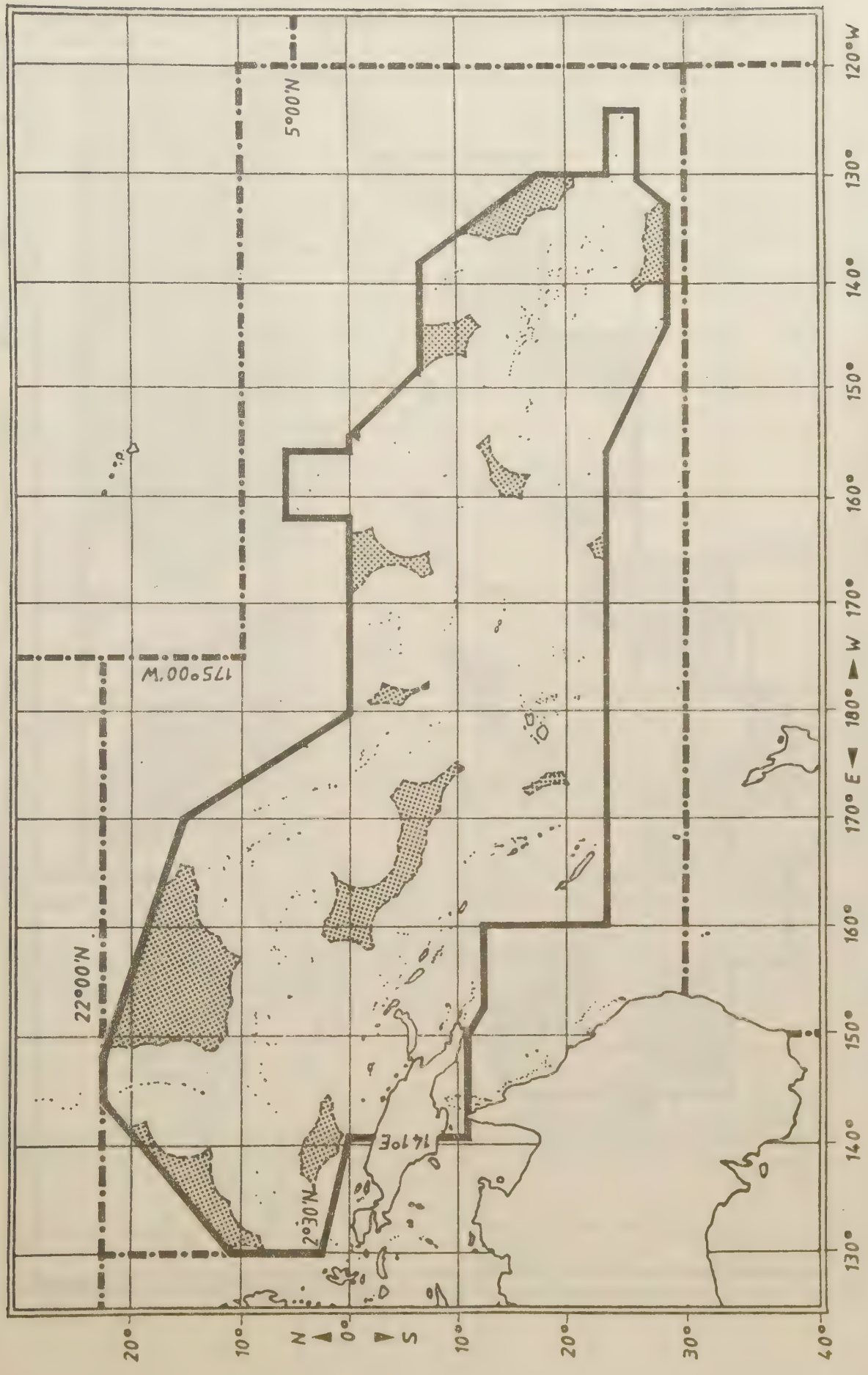
HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

SPC does not recommend any management measures to its Member Countries but does provide scientific advice on the status of exploited stocks. With regard to high seas fishing, its work consisted so far in (i) the collection and analysis of catch statistics and related data, and (ii) scientific research on tuna and billfish.

On 25 November 1986, a Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources of the South Pacific Region has been adopted. This Convention, which is not yet in force, will apply to the 200 mile zone of twenty-three self governing island nations and island territories, as well as those area of high seas that are enclosed from all sides by these 200 mile zones (see attached map 27). Within the framework of that Convention, the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) was established with SPC designated to hold secretariat and co-ordination functions.

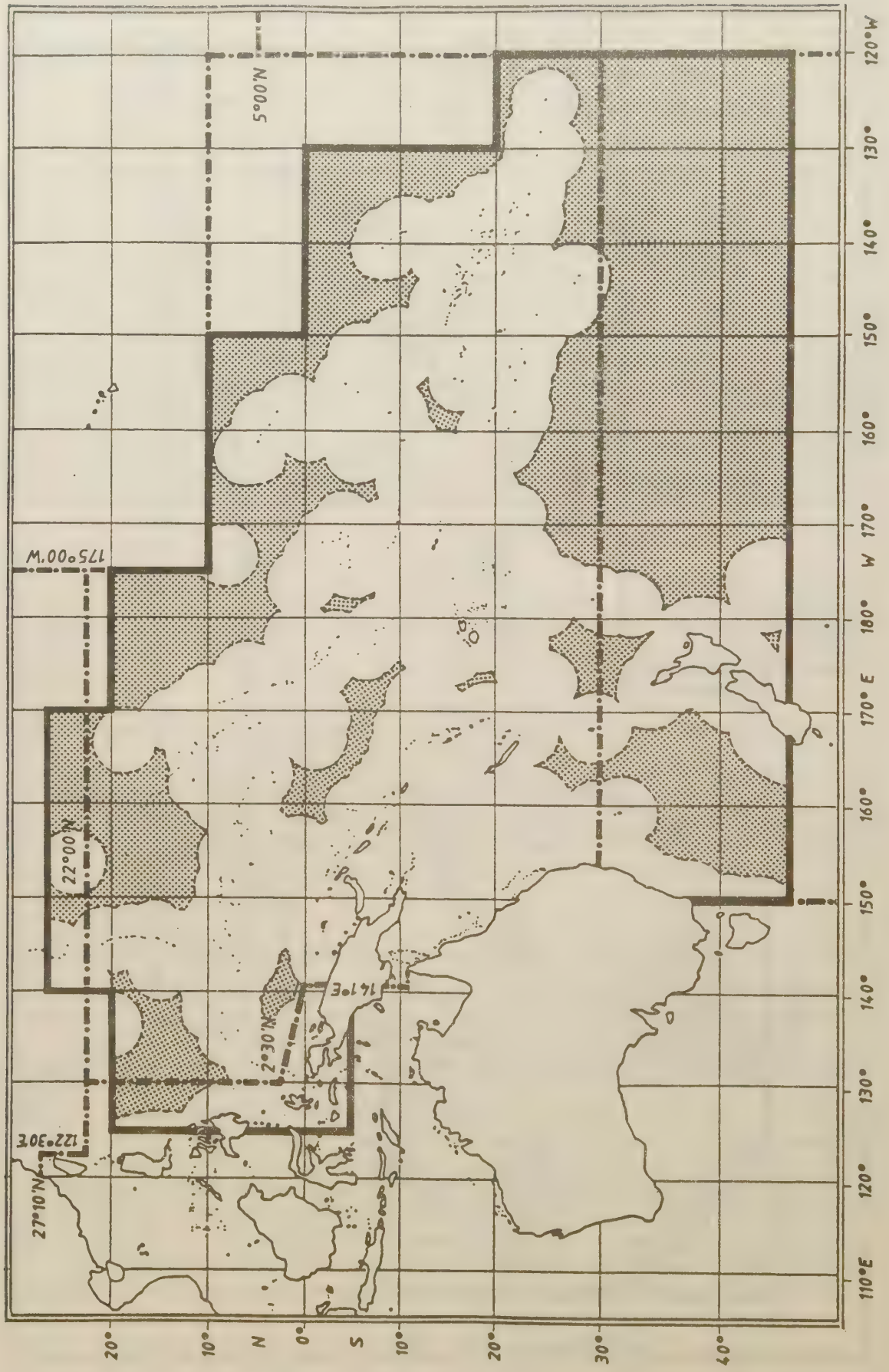
MAP 25:

The SPC Area



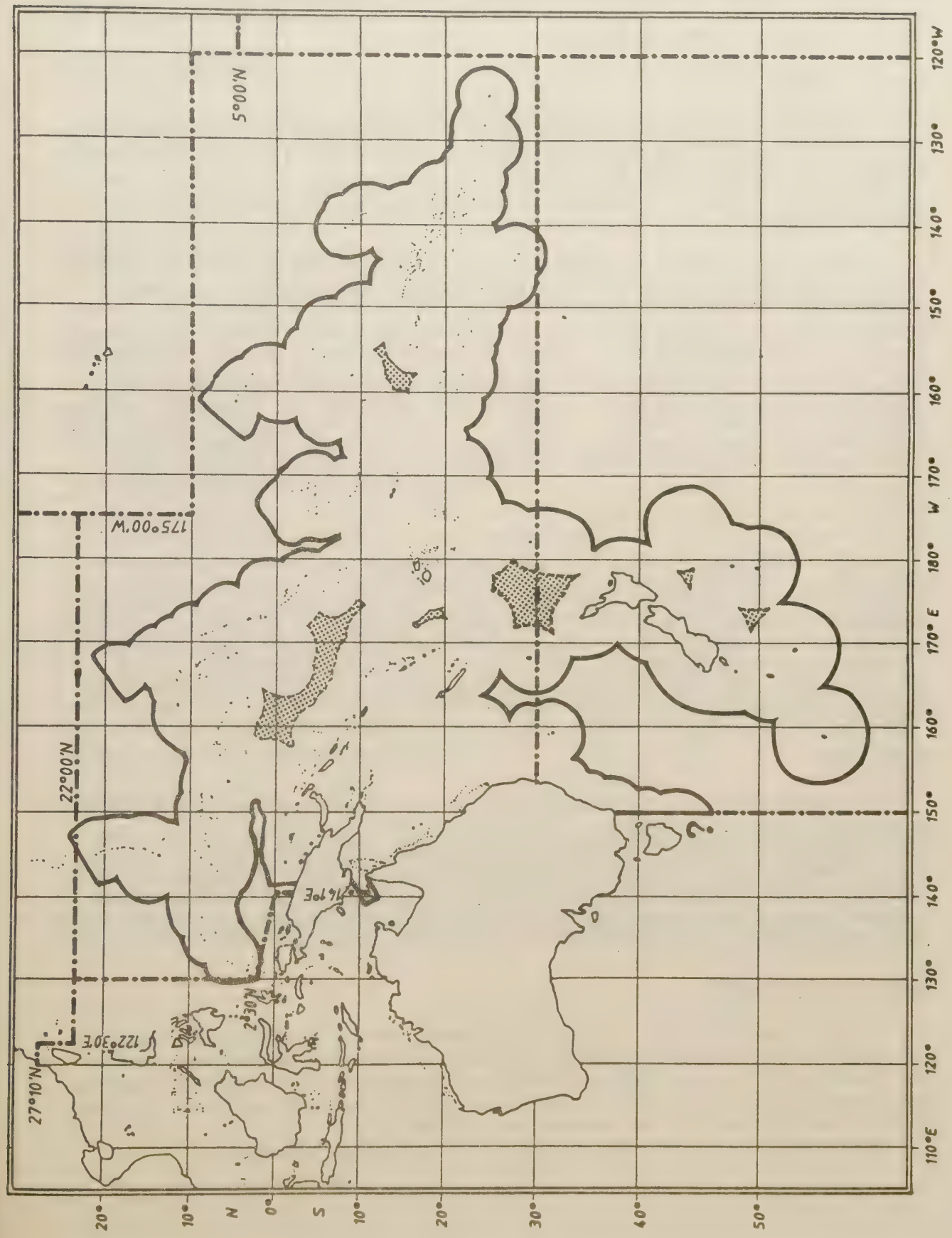
MAP 26:

The SPC Statistical Area



MAP 27:

Area to be covered by the 1986 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region



INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

Established by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed at Washington on 2 December 1946 and entered into force on 10 November 1948. The Convention was amended in 1956 and the Schedule to the Convention is amended annually.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The Convention applies to all waters in which whaling is prosecuted by factory ships, land stations and whale catchers under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Governments.

SPECIES COVERED:

The 1946 Convention refers to the proper conservation of "whale stocks" and does not define the species covered by the term "whale". Contracting Governments are not of one view on such a definition. When formulating the Convention, the 1946 International Whaling Conference adopted a recommendation that a chart of Nomenclature of whales, annexed to the Final Act of the Conference, be accepted as a guide by the governments represented at the Conference. This list included *in toto* the baleen, sperm and bottlenose whales. Several Contracting Governments are of the view that the Commission is not empowered to recommend management measures for those species of small cetaceans which are not included in the list.

In 1972, a Sub-Committee of the Scientific Committee was set up to improve data collection on all world catches of small cetaceans and to review species and stock identification. At its Twenty-Seventh Session in 1976, the Commission noted the Scientific Committee's view that there was a need for an international body to manage stocks of all cetaceans not covered by the IWC Schedule. In 1990, IWC requested the Scientific Committee to commence a process of drawing together all available relevant information on the present status of the stocks of small cetaceans which are subjected to significant directed and incidental takes, on the impact of those takes on the stocks, and providing an assessment of the present threats to the stocks concerned.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership of the Commission is as follows: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USSR, UK, USA. Membership is unrestricted.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

IWC is empowered to determine management measures applicable both on the high seas and in areas under the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties. The Commission has established regulatory measures such as closed seasons and areas, catch limits, size limits, prohibition of certain killing methods and a moratorium on commercial whaling.

The decisions of IWC are subject to an objection procedure.

LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION FOR FISHERY DEVELOPMENT (OLDEPESCA)

Established by the Constitutional Agreement of the Latin American Organization for Fishery Development, signed at Mexico (DF) 29 October 1982 and entered into force on 2 November 1984. The Constitutional Agreement was amended twice in 1984.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The Constitutional Agreement which established OLDEPESCA does not define the area of competence of the Organization by lines of longitude and latitude. It should be noted, however, that the preambule to the Convention refers to the need to encourage the correct use and protection of fishery resources within the maritime jurisdiction zones of each State.

SPECIES COVERED:

The species covered by OLDEPESCA comprise all living marine resources.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of November 1990, the membership of OLDEPESCA was as follows: Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.

Membership to OLDEPESCA is reserved to those States belonging to the Latin American Economic System.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES:

OLDEPESCA, in cooperation with CPPS, was instrumental in the preparation of the Convention for the Conservation, Protection and Optimal utilization of tuna fish in the Eastern Pacific signed on 21 July 1989. The area of application of that Convention covers substantial parts of the high seas. In November 1990 the OLDEPESCA Conference of Ministers adopted a Resolution approving an International Programme for the reduction of capture and incidental mortality of marine species in commercial fishing operations. This Programme is of importance to the high seas tuna fisheries in the eastern Pacific.

REMARKS:

In 1985, an agreement was signed between FAO and OLDEPESCA. The Agreement provides for exchange of information and documents, consultation on planning and implementation of programmes, undertaking of joint studies and implementation of scientific and technical cooperation in the field of research on resources, catch, processing and marketing of fishery products.

COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)

Created by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources drawn up at Canberra on 20 May 1980 and entered into force on 7 April 1982.

AREA OF COMPETENCE:

The area of competence of the CCAMLR is the area south of the line joining the following points along parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude:
$50^{o}S$, 0^{o}; $50^{o}S$, $30^{o}E$; $45^{o}S$, $30^{o}E$; $45^{o}S$, $80^{o}E$; $55^{o}S$, $80^{o}E$; $55^{o}S$, $150^{o}E$; $60^{o}S$, $150^{o}E$; $60^{o}S$, $50^{o}W$; $50^{o}S$, $50^{o}W$; $50^{o}S$, 0^{o}.
This area coincides exactly with FAO statistical areas 48, 58 and 88. It should be noted that CCAMLR and ICSEAF areas of competence overlapped in the north eastern part of FAO Statistical Area 58 (see striped area on map 28).

SPECIES COVERED:

The Convention applies to the Antarctic marine living resources occurring in the area described above defined by the Convention as: "the populations of fin fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and all other species of living organisms, including birds, found south of the Antarctic convergence". This wording is rather broad and includes practically all resources including those which are already covered by SCAR (with regard to seals) and IWC (with regard to whales). CCAMLR has a Working Group for the Development of Approaches to Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. At its seventh meeting in 1988, CCAMLR agreed that the future work of this Working Group should be carefully managed in order to avoid duplication with the above mentioned bodies.

MEMBERSHIP:

The parties to CCAMLR Convention are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Economic Community, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay. However, the mere fact of being a party to the Convention does not automatically imply membership in the Commission. As of November 1990, the following parties to the Convention were not members of the Commission: Canada, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, Peru and Uruguay. Membership to CCAMLR is open to States engaged in research or harvesting activities in relation to the marine living resources to which the Convention applies.

HIGH SEAS ACTIVITIES

The recommendations formulated by CCAMLR are applicable to high seas areas, and are subject to an objection procedure. CCAMLR has a Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection whose primary functions are to report on inspections of fishing vessels and to ensure compliance with conservation measures in force.

REMARKS

The Convention provides that the Commission and the Scientific Committee shall co-operate, as appropriate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with other specialized agencies.

MAP 28:

Area of competence of CCAMLR. The dotted lines indicate the limits of FAO Statistical Areas 58, 48 and 88

APPENDIX

Address, phone and fax numbers of the Organizations

ICES

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DK - 1261 Copenhagen K
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Fax: 33 93 42 15

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NASCO

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Telephone: 031-228 2551
Fax: 031-228 4384

NAFO

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Fax: (902) 469 5729

GFCM

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Fax: (6) 5797 6500

CECAF

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Accra
Ghana
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WECAFC

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CARPAS

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ICCAT

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ICSEAF

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458 88 16
458 88 66

IOFC

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IPFC

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Thailand
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Fax: 280 0445

PICES

Not applicable

INPFC

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Canada V6T 1X2
Telephone: (604) 228 11 28
Fax: (604) 228 11 35

I-ATTC

8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037
U.S.A.
Telephone: (619) 546 71 00
Fax: (619) 546 71 33

CEPTFA

Not applicable

OAPO

Not applicable

CPPS

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726654
Fax: 6951100

FFA

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SPC

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